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THE OTTAWA LETTER

Mr. King Got in the Stream and Made His Stand in the Middle

By G. C. WHITTAKER

WHAT is of first and most importance—the thing apart—is, of course, that the armies overseas are to be adequately reinforced. That is what had to be done regardless of anything else. It is what the country was anxious about and insistent upon. In its anxiety it wanted certainty, unqualified assurance that it would be done. The former Minister of National Defence having stated that the only way in which there could be certainty about it was through the use of the drafted and trained men of the home defence army, the country insisted on this. It refused to accept as not being good enough, the belief and the hope of the Prime Minister and the new Minister of Defence that it could be done without this.

The refusal was so emphatic, the insistence on certainty so forceful, that the Government could not withstand them. It had to bend or break. With Parliament present as the epitome of the people to press their insistence immediately, the Prime Minister chose that the Government should bend. He determined that he must forego the belief and the hope of himself and General McNaughton that something short of the use of the home defence troops would suffice and give the people the certainty they insisted upon having. He has given it.

Reinforcements Settled

Adequate reinforcements are to be sent overseas. Assurance that they will be adequate is supplied to the people in the action taken for the use of the home defence army. That sacred issue, between the people and the Government,—which was not a political issue—has been settled. Settled in the way the people insisted it should be.

If we were the printer setting this in type we would employ the device commonly used in society columns to distinguish announcements from the court circulars pertaining to the movements of royalty or vice-royalty from intelligence notes on the doings of ordinary persons. We would separate the foregoing from what follows by at least a three-em dash. For, having made due note of the event which claimed undisputed precedence in our consideration, we are proceeding to examine and report upon other facets of the matter, and while these are highly interesting and, in a political entity like Canada, not without important significance, it would be vulgar and indecent to let them appear to be confused in any degree with the supreme concern of the nation.

It seems to us that perhaps we can best serve the interests of the reader

by throwing some light upon and bringing into their proper relationship phases of the matter which may be somewhat obscure to those who were not present. Interesting and provocative aspects of it developed or were revealed in a piecemeal way, in some cases only by implication, amidst a confusion of subsidiary considerations, which must have made their underlying significance difficult of recognition.

The Issues

In our assessment, the most interesting questions are these: How did Mr. King come to take the step which it seemed so difficult for him to take, which he was obviously determined until so recently not to take? What was the cause and what was the significance of the apparent confusion as to the effect of that step in General McNaughton's statements to the House of Commons? How is this step to be reconciled with the dismissal of Colonel Ralston who advocated it and his replacement by General McNaughton who opposed it? What did Mr. King expect to gain and what did he gain or does he stand to gain by meeting Parliament? What is the immediate effect on the political situation? What the probable effect or the effect the Prime Minister seeks on the situation at election time?

We are giving what appear to us, at this stage and from the view we have had of the situation, to be the answers. We are writing in advance of the debate in the House and they are subject accordingly to modification. We give them in the order into which they fall most easily, and to some extent they may merge.

Having watched Mr. King perform for a quarter of a century, often before an unsympathetic audience, most people probably expected he would prove equal to the strain of extracting one more rabbit from the hat, empty though it appeared to be. It is to be assumed that the Prime Minister himself shared the expectation. Nemesis might, as his enemies believed, be close on his heels, but it was not on the cards that he would pause, as they hoped, to let her overtake him.

It does not appear, however, that at the time he had Parliament summoned he had identified the particular rabbit he would lay hold on. Certainly the corps of "observers" who were watching him failed to even include the right one in the range of his choice. But as one of them we submit extenuation.

When Caesar, to switch the metaphor, reaches the Rubicon you have every right to expect he will make his stand on the one side of it or cross to the other. How are you to

anticipate that instead he will wade to the centre of the stream and attempt to stand there? And that is what Mr. King has done. This bit of strategy is the one rabbit nobody suspected of being in the hat.

He may be a little closer now to the farther shore than he perhaps thought it would be necessary to go when he stepped into the water with his historic order-in-council, but he had made allowance for the difficulties of the river bottom. There is conscription, as eight provinces wanted, and there is the maintenance of the voluntary system, as the ninth wanted.

You are expected to see a little more of one than of the other according to the point of view which conforms the more to what you want to see. Just now it may appear to those of the eight provinces that there is a little more conscription than non-conscription, which is what Mr. King would desire in the present circumstances. A little later and under changed circumstances, for so has it been arranged, the non-conscription element may become the more visible.

Displeases Most the Least

This course will not, of course, wholly please either the eight provinces or the ninth. Looking on, we think he shrewdly selected it as the one course that would displease either the least. He chose it, naturally, as the one course that seemed to come closest to serving his necessities, but we think you will see him making a pretty fair job of identifying his necessities with those of the nation. They are: the necessity of provision of maintaining a vigorous war effort, including adequate reinforcements for the armies, the necessity of preserving national unity as far as possible, the necessity of preserving the life of his administration. You will, we think, see him merge them into one necessity. You will see him propound a proposition pretty difficult to dispute: that without national unity there could not be a fully vigorous war effort, and that without his administration there

could not be even such national unity as we now have.

Prime Minister has been asked in the House to give his own meaning to the word "necessary" as used in his 1942 commitment, "conscription if necessary". The question will have embarrassed him. The meaning he will give will not be the narrow meaning apparently attached to it by those who have submitted the question, but it is not likely to be acceptable to reasonable minds. If we, we anticipate, the sum of the necessities we have mentioned.

If it is admitted that the maintenance of the war effort necessarily entails maintenance of national unity at least to the degree now obtainable it will not be easy to deny, in the existing political situation, that the latter in turn entails maintenance of Mr. King in the office of Prime Minister. Mr. King was counting on the people seeing what he saw when, looking about him in the Commons last week, he gave a hint of the reasoning with which he would defend the course he has taken.

Pressure by House?

It took General McNaughton quite a long time, in his appearance before the House, to get around to making it clear that the effect of the order-in-council would be to send overseas the full 16,000 of the home defence draftees to which it is presently restricted. In the end, in removing any last doubt, he attributed the conflict with his early statements to his lack of experience in the House. The overlooker might be excused for thinking otherwise.

A

We followed from the galleries and noted in Hansard the variations in his statements on the matter, and he appeared to be quite as conscious of the sense of what he was saying at one stage as at another. Not alone the Prime Minister, but Colonel Ralston also, took occasion to compliment him on his command of his unaccustomed situation. The statements were graduated from an original assertion that none of the home defence draftees might be subjected to compulsion under the order-in-council, through an expression of hope that it would not be necessary to subject

many of them to it, up to the assurance that it would have its impact on all of them.

It looked to us as if the variations were graduated to their reception by the House, that it was only after it had become apparent that his early interpretations of the meaning of the order would not lead to its acceptance by those who wanted to be assured beyond further question that the armies were to have all needed reinforcements that the final and full assurance was given.

If it was as it appeared, then Mr. King's closer approach to the far side of the stream than he intended to make was under the pressure of the forces behind him. But don't count on his staying there. The nice thing about his plan is that it may work out better for his purposes (which he identifies with the nation's purposes) as it goes along. The 16,000 draftees who are now compelled to go overseas may, under this compulsion, "volunteer" to go. They have the privilege of doing that right up to the time they reach shipside.

Colonel Ralston suggested that this was a bit ridiculous, but other members suggested that the privilege might even be extended to such time as they become casualties in battle. In any case, should they all "volunteer" we will be in the happy position—particularly happy for Mr. King—of having conscription when we needed it and wanted it and of not having it or even having had it once the need is no more. You can imagine what use Mr. King will be able to make of that!

Mr. King's Strategy

We suggested last week that in calling parliament Mr. King was perhaps counting on its helping him out of his difficulty. It early became apparent how he intends to use it to that end. We will, we believe, have taken the position before this is read that he had good reason for faith in his policy, as occurred in by General McNaughton, in a further trial of the voluntary system, but that that policy required the support of all elements in the country, and that the reason he "of necessity" abandoned it was that it did not get that support—and particu-

larly that it did not get the support of the Opposition. Up to the time of writing the Opposition has been conducting itself very well in the House, but Mr. King, taking no chance on its failure to commit a blunder, has built up a system of assault in advance which will serve however skillfully it might behave.

And this line of reasoning will serve the further purpose of explaining the otherwise seemingly inexplicable circumstance of the dismissal of Colonel Ralston who wanted to compel the draftees to go overseas and the engagement of General McNaughton who didn't. When he rejected Colonel Ralston's recommendation Mr. King was counting on support for his further trial of no-conscription to make it successful. By

the time it became apparent to him that this support was not forthcoming—partly because the Opposition did not come to his aid—it was too late to employ Colonel Ralston in the carrying out of his own recommendation.

We have to make allowance for how the debate and the vote will go in the Commons this week, but we do not think it need be a very big allowance. At the moment at any rate, the effect of Mr. King's course on the immediate political situation is going to be that of leaving him in command of it. And if his plan works out as he hopes it will, it may have the effect at election time of switching the issue from the dead horse of conscription to the more useful one of postwar policy and programs. He will also be able to claim all the credit that can

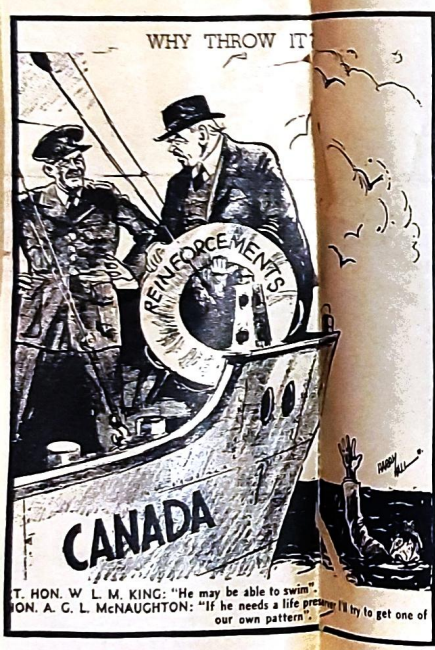
go to anybody for putting up a fight for national unity.

He hasn't, altogether, done so badly in a difficult situation.

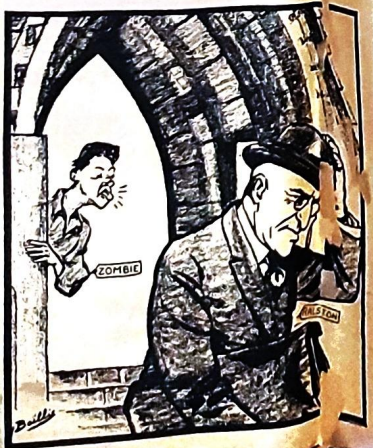
As Press Cartoonists See the Conscription Issue



The Winnipeg Tribune



The Evening Telegram (Toronto)

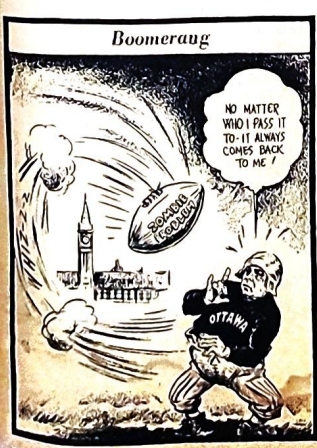


The Vancouver Sun

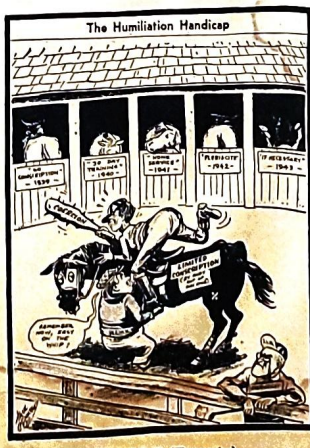
THE intensity of feeling aroused by the Conscription Issue when at long last it came into the parliamentary arena has been reflected in an unusual vigor on the part of the Canadian cartoonists. That this vigor was almost wholly confined to the newspapers opposed to the Government's long-continued policy of refraining from overseas conscription is not surprising; it is difficult to cartoon effectively in support of a purely negative policy, and anyhow the supporters of the Government had to be prepared for it to make some concessions and had no idea what they would be. The Winnipeg Free Press is almost the only large-city daily which has given the Government fairly consistent support, and its cartoonist has avoided this subject. The cartoons here reproduced, from newspapers in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, appeared during the interval between the Ralston-McNaughton switch and the announcement of the new volunteers-plus-conscription policy. They are all strongly indicative of the popular feeling in the eight provinces that the Canadian forces now in the field must be adequately reinforced and that N.R.M.A. personnel must be ordered overseas for that purpose.



The Evening Telegram (Toronto)



The Halifax Herald



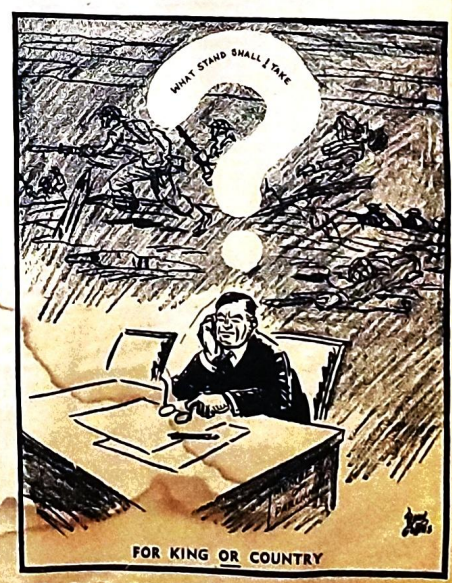
The Globe and Mail (Toronto)



The Gazette (Montreal)



The Gazette (Montreal)



The Gazette (Montreal)

CANADIAN LOSSES HIGH IN 3 MONTHS

25,704 in August, September
and October, Released
Figures Show

ARMY CASUALTIES GIVEN

1,760 Listed Dead in Octo-
ber, 2,069 in September
and 2,359 in August
Fighting

Ottawa, December 1.—De-
fence headquarters announced to-
day the Canadian Army suffered
7,921 casualties in October compar-
ed with 9,888 in August and 8,443
in September—the highest monthly
totals of the war.

Total Army casualties for the war
period to October 31 are 58,948
made up of 15,976 dead, 38,412
wounded and 6,555 missing, pris-
oner and interned.

This brought the war total for
Canada's three armed forces to
77,661 made up of 27,446 dead, 37-
680 wounded and 12,525 missing,
prisoner and interned.

October figures for the Navy and
Air Force are not yet available.

Casualties for all categories were
lower in October compared with
August and were lower for dead
and wounded compared with Sep-
tember. But the missing, prisoner
and interned figure was higher in
October compared with September.
In October there were 1,760 dead,
591 missing, prisoner and interned,
and 5,570 wounded. September
figures were 2,069 dead, 191 mis-
sing, prisoner and interned and 6-
185 wounded. August figures were
2,359 dead, 683 missing, prisoners
and interned and 8,314 wounded.

The Canadian Army October
fighting was concentrated on the
freeing of the port of Antwerp and
to accomplish this Gen. Crerar's
men waged the successful month-
long battle to clear the Scheldt es-
tuary. That campaign in southwest-
ern Holland ended November 9.

Prime Minister Churchill an-
nounced November 29 that there
had been approximately 40,000 Brit-
ish and Canadian casualties in the
drive into Holland and Germany.
He did not indicate the exact
period in which these casualties
were suffered.

"In these operations, including
the storming of the Scheldt-island
of Walcheren which contained epi-
sodes of marvellous gallantry and
great feats of arms, the British and
Canadian forces suffered about 40-
000 casualties," he told the British
House of Commons.

It has been widely stated the
present offensive in the west was
possible largely because the Cana-
dians succeeded in clearing the
coast of France, Belgium and south-
ern Holland, thus opening up vital
ports and clearing a way for the
use of Antwerp, most valuable of
them all.

In taking control of the Scheldt
estuary in dirty weather, Gen.
Crerar's troops smashed the Ger-
man 64th and 70th Division. In the
process of the campaign British
and Canadian troops captured 25,000
prisoners and it was considered the
German killed and wounded proba-
bly reached a similar total.

In today's casualty announcement
the 58,948 war total included 15-
976 dead, 6,555 missing, prisoner, in-
terned and 38,412 wounded.

This brought the war total for
Canada's three armed forces to 77-
661 made up of 27,446 dead, 12,525
missing, prisoner and interned and
37,680 wounded.

In the 4½ years of the Great War
626,462 Canadians served, and
casualties totalled 190,092 including
62,817 dead.

After five years of war the pres-
ent strength of the armed forces is
estimated at 757,000 and 77,661
casualties up to October 31 do not
take into account merchant navy
casualties which were 1,200 to Feb-
ruary 22.

Casualties up to October 31:

Dead	15,976
Missing, prisoner, interned	6,555
Wounded	38,412
Total	60,943

This is the breakdown of casual-
ties since June 1—six days before

Day:	Missing.	Prisoner	Total
Dead	2,995	7,606	1,049
Wounded	2,389	6,314	663
	269	6,185	161
	5,570	591	7,921

UNTRAINED TROOPS SAID SENT TO ITALY

Maj. 'Tiger' Welsh Claims
Reinforcements Situation
Is Degennerating

Toronto, December 1.—Maj.
G. A. (Tiger) Welsh, D.S.O. and
Bar, said today that as early as
November, 1943, Canadian artillery
commanders in Italy had filed re-
ports of a serious condition devel-
oping in the arrival of untrained
and inadequate reinforcements.
Since that time he said the situation
"has been rapidly degenerating."
His unit has not been up to
strength since it first went into
action in Sicily, he said in an in-
terview with a Globe and Mail re-
porter. At Ortona the unit carried
on 28 days without rest, he said,
and a draft of replacements was
sent to his anti-tank unit from an
anti-aircraft unit.

Until Canadians realize what
modern war is, they cannot realize
the importance of fully-trained
troops, he said. Canada's infantry—
"the finest assault or shock forces
in the world today"—had been
reinforced insufficiently with un-
trained men or men trained in
other highly specialized technique
such as artillery, "while artillery
itself suffered from lack of trained
men," he added.

"There is all the difference in the
world between numerical rein-
forcements and trained reinforce-
ments," he said. "We smash up anti-
tank units to try to fill infantry
gaps and we are moving in Italy
into the Po Valley which is ideal
for Germany's tanks."

"The boys will be crying for anti-
tank regiments there... Peter is
being robbed to pay Paul... by a
country which always subscribed
to the belief that a man should
never be used if a shell would do
the job."

Internal Strife Here 'Greater Than China's'

Quebec, Ont., December 1.—Dr.
W. T. Chang, director of the
Chinese Farmers' Bank and a pro-
fessor of pomology at the Univer-
sity of Nanjing, said here today
during a tour of the Ontario Agri-
cultural College that the internal
difficulties within China are less
serious than those of the province
of Quebec in Canada.
"The difference of opinion in my
country are less difficult than most
Occidentals believe," Dr. Chang
said, adding that in Shensi province,
the northern half of the state is
self-governed "the people there
having set up their own govern-
ment and circulating their own
currency, and acting as entity with-
in their own boundary."

THE TWO KINGS AT WORK.

Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Prime Min-
ister, and Hon. Dr. J. H. King, Government leader
in the Senate, have often found it politically wise
to conjure up bogeys when they find themselves
hard pressed.

From long experience, they have found their
best work is less in the efficient creation of con-
vincing bogeys than in tossing them back and
forth between the House of Commons and the
Senate, and seeking to get them accepted by re-
petitive variations on a central theme. They have
been trying out the same old system again at the
current session of Parliament on reinforcements
and the overseas use of draftees.

The Prime Minister started the ball rolling
early this week during his forced retreat on the
draftee issue. He professed to find a sinister
conspiracy to force conscription and frustrate the
demonstrably futile efforts to find sufficient rein-
forcements by appeals for volunteers. The failure
of himself and General McNaughton along these
lines he attributed to "opposition to anything of
the kind on the part of the interests that lie be-
hind this organized effort to force conscription."
Later in the same speech he referred to "organ-
ized opposition to voluntary enlistment."

On Thursday Senator King faithfully whipped
out the same barrage balloon and added a few
extra furlongs, perhaps to try and give the im-
pression that it was a fresh idea of his own. The
honorable senator was a little more specific than
his leader. The "organized effort" which Senator
King claimed to perceive had been directed, he
said, at the draftees themselves. They had been
"schooling to resist voluntary enlistment in order
to force the Prime Minister to bring down an
order-in-council," he asserted.

Of themselves and in the light of known events
of the past few weeks, the charges of both Kings
appear intrinsically ridiculous. But in the impli-
cations of what they say and in the omission of
supporting detail, they are sufficiently serious to
warrant a full explanation by their sponsors to
their colleagues in Parliament, and to the public.
The Prime Minister and his senatorial echo
should say exactly what they are talking about,
to whom or to what groups they refer, and by
what means this inferentially large-scale plot was
perpetrated.

Senator King absolved the Progressive Con-
servative and other political parties from blame
in the alleged "schooling" of draftees, but
claimed that the "group" responsible was well
known. Other senators quite properly demanded
to know what group, and what evidence he had
to support his claims. The public will be equally
sceptical, and will like to know also how it man-
aged to get at the draftees to make such an ap-

peal. Or is Senator King suggesting that
of draftee units were part of the "conspi-
racy"? The Prime Minister should also speak
himself who directed the "organized ef-
fort to force conscription," and how they man-
age to correlate and crystallize public opinion so
thoroughly and so rapidly across the country.
The allegations of the team of Kings, the
man still regards the outburst of popular
reaction over reinforcements as completely
and sincere. It is up to Mr. King to prove
was not.

(The June-July total is lumped
because the Army never has issued
the war casualty total as of June
30 which is needed to compile the
monthly totals for these two
months.)

	August	September	October
Dead	2,359	2,069	1,760
Missing, Prisoner, Interned	683	191	591
Wounded	8,314	6,185	5,570
Total	9,338	8,445	7,921

German Casualties High

Stockholm, December 1. — (C.P.-
Reuter) — From September 1, 1930,
to September 1, 1944, 2,400,000 Ger-
man soldiers were killed on the
battlefronts of Europe and Africa
according to the Berlin correspond-
ent of the Swedish paper Affon-
blad.

A further 540,000 were so seri-
ously wounded that they will be
invalids for life, he reported.

The number of deaths through
air raids is estimated at 480,000,
the correspondent said. Losses are
proportionately highest in Elber-
feld, an industrial town of the
Ruhr and in Hamburg, and low-
est in Berlin.

VOLUNTARY SYSTEM BUNGLED JEAN INFERS AS HE RESIGNS AS ST. LAURENT'S ASSISTANT

HITS CONSCRIPTION

Montreal M.P. Moves New Quebec Sub-amendment to Motion

GRAY CRITICIZES KING

Liberal Denounces 'Half-way' Measures But Will Support Government

By F. C. MEARS

(Gazette Resident Correspondent)
Ottawa, December 1.—Quebec Liberals are still squirming in their tight position and seeking a way out. Another sub-amendment which would enable them to express their opposition to conscription while voting confidence in the government was moved this afternoon by Joseph Jean (Mercier-Montreal) and parliamentary assistant to Justice Minister Louis St. Laurent. At the same time he stated he had tendered his resignation as parliamentary assistant. Prime Minister King said later it had been accepted.

A similar sub-amendment moved yesterday by L. P. Picard (Belchasse) and seconded by Walter Tucker of Saskatchewan, was ruled out of order. This Picard sub-amendment and those previously moved by the C.C.F. and Social Credit groups, all of which were ruled out by the Speaker, were scored last night by Hon. P. J. A. Cardin, who charged these were efforts at providing an escape from the necessity of voting a straight yes or no on the government motion.

Although refraining from making any definite criticism of government policy in regard to recruiting Mr. Jean implied that the voluntary system of securing enlistments for overseas service had been haphazard, and that there had been "lack of goodwill and competence" in the matter.

Another feature of today's short sittings was the speech of Ross Gray (Lib. Lambton West) who while denouncing the government's half-way measures announced he would vote confidence in the administration, giving the same reason as he stated the other night by Col. J. L. Ralston.

Mr. Gray said he would vote for the Government, because he thought it would help the prompt dispatch of the much needed infantry reinforcements.

The Ontario Liberal reminded the house he had many times in the past backed the government for its refusal to adopt conscription and he also opposed the taking of the plebiscite.

Then he turned his attention to the opposition groups. He said that in the earlier sittings of this year the Progressive Conservatives had introduced a direct motion calling for all conscripts being made liable for overseas service.

There was blame, too, for the C.C.F. group. That party would never have had a reinforcement problem and they would not have had a veteran problem "for this is the party that would have allowed Britain to bleed and die before sending any expeditionary force from this country."

PROTESTS TWO ARMIES

"When I find this country is still to be added with two armies (volunteers and conscripts)," said Mr. Gray, "I must in justice to my constituents of Lambton West and with I believe, their full support protest against this half-way measure."

Liberals west of the Ottawa river who have been critical of their government, on the conscription issue are likely to follow the course taken today by Mr. Gray so that crisis No. 3 is not likely to confront the government when the final vote is taken late next week.

What support the opposition groups will get in the voting will come from the uncompromising anti-conscriptionists of Quebec, including the remnants of the Bloc Populaire and those led by M. Cardin, but not enough of them to prevent the implementation of the bill.

Liberal Senator Sees Extension Of Parliament, Not Dissolution

Ottawa, December 1.—(C) — A prediction that extension of the life of Parliament was more likely than dissolution was made in the Senate today by Senator Norman Lambert (L. Ontario).

The life of Parliament expires April 16. Senator Lambert said he was expressing a personal viewpoint. Senator F. B. Black (P.C., New Brunswick) voiced strong objection to any prolongation of the life of Parliament.

The discussion on election possibilities came in a debate on the government's policy on conscription and reinforcements. The debate is to be continued when the Senate resumes Monday night, with Senator J. J. Bench (L. Ontario) scheduled to speak.

During today's debate Senator H. Haig (P.C., Manitoba) said Canadians should accept the proposition that compulsion was inevitable in wartime. Senator R. B. Horner (P.C., Saskatchewan) also favored the principle of compulsory service.

Senator Lambert said the present crisis had removed from the mind of the public any thought of an election.

"If public opinion as to the length of the war is correct I think Parliament is more likely to have its life extended than to be dissolved," he said.

"I trust that if necessary — in spite of all the Prime Minister has said to the contrary — he will not hesitate to prolong the life of

this Parliament. I do not think he has said anything to preclude that possibility."

Senator Haig said for 27 years there had been a system of education going on in some parts of Canada that only the Conservative party would impose conscription. The present circumstances had proven this was not so.

"When we go to war we have got to accept compulsory services and our people have got to accept that proposition," he said.

There was ground for some doubt as to whether Canada had not gone too far in its war effort. It was inevitable that the supply of recruits would eventually be exhausted.

Senator Horner said he had favored the principle of conscription since 1916. Such a policy was the only fair means of meeting war obligations.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King and members of his party had consistently said that only the Progressive Conservative party would introduce conscription. Now an effort was being made to blame by inference the Progressive Conservative party for the necessity of introducing compulsion at this stage of the war.

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JOSEPH E. ATKINSON, President

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1944

The Army Will Be Reinforced

The address delivered in parliament last week by Col. J. L. Ralston has been praised in many Conservative newspapers. As a matter of fact, it constituted an answer to their pretension that there is still no "real conscription" in Canada. Col. Ralston said:

"My immediate objective was to get the additional 15,000 men from the N.R.M.A. trained infantry. Today, if the declarations of the prime minister and the minister of national defence mean what I understand them to mean, the sending of 16,000 additional men from N.R.M.A. (draftees), as rapidly as they can be dispatched is assured, and the principle is laid down by order-in-council that N.R.M.A. men are to be available for reinforcement purposes, and it is said by the minister that further numbers will be sent as required. I do not think the principle is laid down by the order-in-council itself that they are all included in the order-in-council, but the principle has been established by the order-in-council that N.R.M.A. men are available, and the minister has said that further numbers will be sent as required."

As a matter of fact, the order-in-council itself says, after dealing with the dispatch of the first 16,000, that "further, all personnel so dispatched or who at any time may be dispatched, are hereby placed on active service beyond Canada for the defence of Canada." Col. Ralston raised a further point. He said: "I am assuming, unless the prime minister states otherwise, that if the government motion carries, the future orders-in-council specifying additional numbers of men will be passed and put into effect without any reference back again to this house for a vote of confidence or other approval."

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: "That is correct."

Mr. RALSTON: "I take that to be clear from the minister's statements to the House."

The Canadian infantry overseas is assured of reinforcements. That is what was sought, and that is what has been assured. The attempt to give an opposite impression is purely political.

That So-Sudden Sympathy

It's nothing short of marvellous how sympathetic some Conservatives have suddenly become toward the draftees. "These poor young men," they say—or say in effect—"not one of them knows whether he'll be among the 16,000 now to be sent overseas or not. And if he is, then he's treated unfairly because others aren't. It's an outrage."

It is a sudden conversion. Right up until the passing of the order-in-council, the people who are now expressing this sympathy were calling the draftees "zombies." On the front page of the official Conservative publication Public Opinion, issued from party headquarters at Ottawa, appeared a sneer-smear item declaring the suitability of the name.

But now something has to be done to conciliate these men and their families. So Conservative eyes are suddenly filled with tears on their behalf. What a curious thing politics is.

As a matter of fact there are 16,000 draftees fully trained or almost fully trained as infantry combat troops. It is these trained infantrymen who are to be sent over in advance of those who have yet to be trained and they can have no complaint. But it is not what they are being told by who only a little while ago were calling them "zombies."

CCF RECORDS PLEA FOR A SINGLE ARMY

Party Would Have Distinctions Between Draftees, Volunteers Removed
ELECTS OFFICERS

M. J. Coldwell Again National Leader; Frank Scott Re-elected National Chairman

The C.C.F. Party last night ended its eighth national convention after three days of deliberations in closed and open sessions resulting in the approval of a 19-point federal election program to be submitted to the Canadian people and a resolution demanding "the total mobilization of all our resources, material and financial as well as human."

Reelection by acclamation of M. J. Coldwell, member of Parliament for Rosetown-Biggar, as national leader followed a closed meeting during which his stand and that of other C.C.F. house members on the draft issue came under review. Dr. Frank Scott, professor at McGill University, was also re-elected by acclamation national chairman.

Elected as national vice chairmen was Angus Macnais, M.P. for Vancouver East for the third time, together with—for the first time in C.C.F. history—François LaRoche, a French-Canadian member of the national council. Members of the national council were elected as follows: C. H. Millard, M.L.A. of Toronto; Percy Wright, M.P. of Melfort, Sask.; Stanley Knowles, M.P. of Winnipeg North Centre; Mrs. Dorothy Steeves, M.L.A. of British Columbia; A. M. Nicholson, M.P. of Mackenzie, Sask.; David Lewis, M.P. of Ontario; Omer Chartrand, Montreal; Donald MacDonald, M.L.A. of Nova Scotia. Three additional members from each province will be elected later by the provincial parties. Also appointed at the convention were A. M. Nicholson, M.P. of Canada, Sask., as national treasurer, while David Lewis was re-elected as national secretary.

Vote on the draft resolution by the 250 delegates representing the nine provinces of the Dominion came after more than two hours' discussion. The resolution which was said to have been adopted "almost" unanimously read:

"This convention of the C.C.F. demands the immediate removal of all distinction and discrimination between drafted and volunteer personnel, thus making all members of the armed forces available for general service."

"And further demands the total mobilization of all our resources, material and financial as well as human. Only such a policy can give our armed forces adequate support, ensure the reestablishment of the members of the services and guarantee the maintenance of full employment."

An official statement issued at the end of the closed session said the debate was "marked by considered and moderate statements," that it was recognized "that conscription was already in force and that the order-in-council which made conscription operative was the law of the land."

"Convention speakers condemned the practices of the Liberal and Conservative parties which had used the people of Quebec for their ends. Appeals were made by French speakers to consider the issue from the point of view of Canada and Canadians rather than from any sectional viewpoint, and their remarks were greeted with loud applause by the delegates."

Because of the time element, the convention was able to deal only with very few of the considerable number of resolutions introduced at the convention by delegates from the various provinces.

One which was adopted unanimously and given strong support stressed that surpluses of cooperatives were "not benefits but savings" and urged that they "should be exempt from income tax in the hands of the cooperative."

Another resolution which was passed with some opposition said that "the Canadian Government should investigate the possibility of promoting the idea of an international government representative of all peoples and work towards the establishments of a world authority."

CANADA MEETS A CRISIS ON CONSCRIPTION ISSUE

Roots of Trouble Go Back to Army Errors, Politics and Personalities

By F. J. PHILIP
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES

OTTAWA, Dec. 2—There are deep and complicated factors of principle, politics and personality and of military miscalculation in the crisis that has so greatly disturbed Canada during the past weeks and done harm to her reputation abroad.

In actual dimension, the problem that had to be faced was small. Some 16,000 trained infantrymen were needed to bring the reserves of the Canadian forces in Italy and the Netherlands up to security level. The number seemed insignificant when compared with the figures of 390,000 volunteers in the army overseas, 188,000 in the air force and 85,000 in the navy, a total of 663,000 fighting men out of a male population of four and a quarter million, over 14 years of age. But the number, however small, has proved something like the proverbial straw.

It may have been, as some say, that Canada attempted too much. In these five years since she went to war voluntarily she has stretched her manpower and womanpower to the utmost to keep the farms in production, to build war industries, to train her own and other Commonwealth airmen, to launch and man a navy, to create and supply a Canadian Army and to pay for it all by taxation and internal loans, for Canada has accepted no aid or lend-lease from any other country.

But in these past weeks the splendid reputation that had been built up has come near being wrecked because, as Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King said, "Conscription has been made the symbol of total effort regardless of everything else that has been done to help win the war."

Military Miscalculation

In any fair estimate of the situation the miscalculation of the military with regard to infantry must be placed first, for it was that which brought on the whole crisis.

Although the General Staff knew exactly how many men it had and how many it would have at its disposal under the voluntary enlistment system, and had had five

years in which to organize the army, it found itself short of infantry when D-day approached.

It came as a shock to him, former Defense Minister J. L. Ralston told Parliament on Wednesday evening, to discover, when he visited the battle areas in October, how low these reserves were. Colonel Ralston returned home and reported to the Cabinet that the only source from which trained men could be drawn was the home defense force of drafted men who had not volunteered for overseas service.

From that point, principle, politics and personalities all crowded into the debate, making it the most passionate that has wrung the country for many years.

Principle at Stake

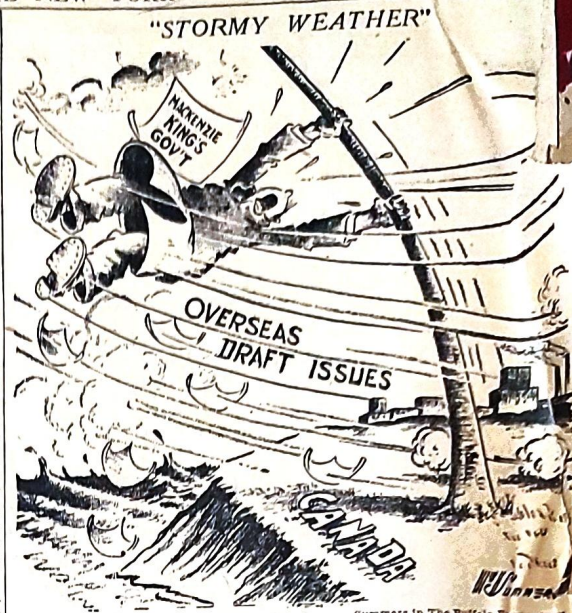
The principle involved was whether the State has the right to send its citizens abroad to fight. That is an issue which has always been disputed in English-speaking countries. Even Britain's most "imperialistic" wars were always fought with volunteers. Here the issue was further complicated by the fact that over half the population is of non-British origin. Canada is their country and more than any, the Liberal party, under the leadership of Mr. King, has built up in the popular mind the conception of Canada's free association in the British Commonwealth as giving her an independent right to her own foreign policy, her own decisions and her own responsibilities.

Ever since the last World War it has been accepted by all parties, without more than occasional protest, that conscription for service in any war that was not for immediate defense of Canada would never be again applied.

Although this conception of Canadianism is general, it has been naturally enough, it has developed most strongly among the organized community of French-speaking Canada, with its defensive minority outlook and opposition to anything that might savor of imperialism.

In extreme cases it has flow-

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ered into small political groups that are seeking to push the argument further toward Canada's complete independence. But in the mass the French-Canadians have remained attached to their "reasoned loyalty" to the British crown and institutions and Quebec has taken pride in what it has done in this war on a voluntary basis.

The demand for conscription, when it has arisen in this war, has always come from Canadians to whom Britain is still the old country. In their anxiety for her safety and admiration for her fight, they have passionately wanted this Canada of their adoption to prove a worthy partner and have driven hard to do everything that could be done to help.

Premier's Personality

The third element in the situation has been the personality of Prime Minister King. Those who, in other countries, have learned to admire him for his sagacity and his smile would be surprised to find how intensely he is disliked in some sections of his own country. During all this controversy he has had to sit and hear himself called a "traitor" by Quebecers because he finally consented to overseas conscription and denounced by his opponents because he did not do it sooner.

Two of his former Ministers have left him, one (Colonel Ralston) because he was slow to apply con-

scription and the other (C. G. Power, former Air Minister), because he did apply it.

His defense has been that he put Canadian unity first, but when he found the army in danger he felt that he had to put its safety first.

To any impartial observer would seem a reasonable attitude but the emotions stirred by the alarm that was felt when the shortage of infantry reinforcements was first reported and the conflict of racial and political attachments that has been developed in the debate, have ended by closing all that he has done to make Canada's contribution in war great and so united. As he sees conscription has become the symbol of total effort and all else forgotten.

A greater measure of self-government in Yukon Territory now administered by a federal controller with the aid of an advisory council was urged in another resolution.

Other resolutions adopted were supplementary to points already covered in the election manifesto.

Earlier in the day the delegates gave approval to 10 sections of the manifesto which had not come up for study during the two previous days of the convention.

During discussion of a section dealing with national unity, Quebec Provincial Secretary Omer Chartrand suggested that the convention express itself as favoring removal of the ties linking Canada to the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Mr. Chartrand said that "the source of disunity existing at present in Canada lies rather with the country's attitude in the international field than with economic factors" with one group thinking "too much of England and forgetting Canada" and another group thinking that "Canada's attitude on

international matters is British-inspired."

National Secretary David Lewis said "we should remain in the British Commonwealth but the C.C.F. has always and will always oppose the last vestiges of the British Empire."

A plea that provincial CCF groups promote youth movements within their party was made by William Greengrass, past national president of the Cooperative Commonwealth Youth Movement in a report to the convention. He urged that constituency organizations arrange for the reception of young people, encourage young speakers and give them an opportunity to take the platform.

He reported that four sections of the CCYM had or would soon have full-time provincial organizers and outlined the activities of provincial groups in the movement across Canada.

(The following English translation of the remarks made by Liguori Lacombe, M.P. for Laval-Two-Mountains, in the current debate in the House of Commons, is not reproduced because Mr. Lacombe, the founder and sole member of the Canadian Party, speaks for any particular body of opinion, because he doesn't. It is published simply as an interesting expression of opinion by a Member of Parliament after five years of the most terrible war the world has ever faced.)

My remarks will be brief. I do not need to speak at any length to repeat what I have stated a hundred times in and out of the house. I foresaw long ago the events which are now taking place and I have frequently warned the government and the people. During the sessions of 1937 and 1938, I consistently opposed the increase in military estimates, maintaining an unyielding opposition to any attempt to drag us into foreign wars. I have fought unremittingly for the repeal of section 64 of the Militia Act, at the very time when an attempt was being made to lead us into believing that the increase in military estimates was intended for the defence of Canada and of Canada only. On September 9, 1939, I denounced with all my strength Canada's participation in the war, and I even moved an amendment to that effect.

Along the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. LaCrosse) supported my efforts against participation which necessarily was to bring about the unjust and disloyal conscription which has been in force since 1940 and, finally, the present disaster.

As the result of Canada's participation in the war, the government has spent sixteen billion dollars: agriculture has lost over half a million workers, male and female; families are broken up, while mothers and daughters are toiling in factories, and thousands of our young men are being sacrificed on foreign soil. And who are responsible for this appalling situation? Those who failed to support our amendment against participation in the war and our amendments against mobilization, on June 18 and 19, 1940.

Protests are being heard against conscription, not only from Quebec but from all sections of the country. I am still opposed to conscription with as much strength as I deployed in opposing the increase in defence estimates, participation and mobilization. I cannot find words sufficiently scathing to condemn this new reversal of policy by a government which, at the end of its term of office, imposes this evil and anti-national measure. Never has a government broken so many pledges. Never has it thus sowed doubt and suspicion. A self-respecting administration, if they have any regard for the people, do not resort to all possible roundabout means to abuse the good faith of those under their jurisdiction. In whom will our people repose their trust if they lose confidence in the government?

One last word. Since Canada has started participating in the war, we have lost all our prerogatives. We have reverted to century-old colonialism. Our country, thanks to the acts and errors of the government, is now trailing for good in the wake of the Empire to the great satisfaction of our partisans of colonialism. Let us hope that we may forsake this chaotic situation to unfurl at last a Canadian flag in an inde-

pendent country, mistress of its own destinies. Whether we wish it or not, the deep reactions of the post-war period are bound to bring about the independence of Canada.

At last, because they have camouflaged the facts, the government who have willingly declared war must inevitably be led to conscription. Let them shoulder their dreadful responsibility in this matter, which they share with those who have refused to support the amendment I moved against participation in the war, on September 9, 1939. Their attitude at that time has been and still is the main cause of conscription. If, in 1917, a similar measure was a tremendous mistake, to use the expressions of the former Minister of Justice, it is doubly wrong today. The experience of the last war should have been a warning to the amendment. The Canadian people, after seeing the economic structure of their country threatened, besides shouldering too heavy a burden of taxes and loans must, by the expressed will of their government, pay the blood tax. Such are the deferred but dire results of the military and financial imperialism laid down as a creed by the very people who claimed they were opposing it.

Personally, I shall maintain the attitude I have taken, resolved to fight to the end against this unjustifiable measure.

—Felix Adler

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The hero is one who kindles a great light in the world, who sets up blazing torches in the dark streets of life for men to see by. The saint is the man who walks through the dark paths of the world himself a light.
—Felix Adler

MONTREAL, MONDAY, DECEMBER 4.

HOUSE DEBATE SHOULD BE SPEEDED.

The lines of the issue and the divisions of thought within Parliament on the questions of reinforcements, conscription for overseas service and the Government's war policy have by now been resolved with as much clarity as can probably be expected under the circumstances. Any more decisive, sharp-cut definition of the principles at stake, and of the groupings of opinion within the House, is unlikely, if not impossible, of attainment under the limitations imposed by the confusions, evasions and emotions resulting from the Government manoeuvres on the whole matter.

There would thus seem to be no good purpose served by prolonging the current special session of Parliament any longer than is necessary in conformity with the standards and the privileges of democratic debate. Most if not all of the private members of the Commons, and doubtless also the members of the Senate, have indicated their anxiety to declare themselves. It is only reasonable and proper that they should be granted time to put themselves on record, to state their position and voting alignments, and explain why. But that does not mean that they enjoy the right to indulge in wearisome verbosity or to ramble off on pointless tangents.

Leaders of the Government and of the other parties in the House, as well as the principal exponents of individual viewpoints, have fully outlined their attitudes. They have made it almost a foregone conclusion that various groups in the Commons, whatever their differences on specific aspects of the issues involved, will combine in the final showdown to carry the Government resolution calling for support of its war policy.

Those opposed to conscription in any form or to any degree appear clearly outnumbered by those who, however dissatisfied some of them may be with the extent of the limited conscription invoked, feel they must endorse what the Government has been forced to do so far. The latter group apparently cannot bring themselves to stand for "all or nothing," in the belief that the half-loaf conceded is essential to meet the immediate need and might conceivably be held up by an adverse vote on the confidence resolution.

Private members can add little or nothing to what has previously transpired except, as we have said, to record themselves as briefly as possible on the issues. The great majority of the public, we feel sure, is anxious to have the debate wound up, the vote taken and the decks cleared for action. There remains much to be done.

Quebec Anti-conscription Meeting Urges Canada Break Empire Ties

(Gazette Staff Correspondent)

Quebec, December 3.—Peremptory demand that Hon. Louis St. Laurent, Minister of Justice, and the other Canadian Ministers of the King government resign immediately, were voiced at a Saturday night meeting, held at the Hotel Chateaubert, M.L.A. for

The meeting was held at the St. Laurent Hall, in St. Sauveur, against overseas conscription—that arising from the fear of the Empire. Mr. Chateaubert, M.L.A. for the district, immediately after the meeting, snapped the last links of the connection with the British Empire and take the seat of Canada in the Pan-American Union. However, just prior to the independence, Mr. Chateaubert, M.L.A. for the province of Quebec, asked a revision of the constitution so as to protect the province and avoid partitioning the province into two or three.

Mr. Chateaubert, M.P. for Quebec, said that the French-Canadian members had told Mr. Chateaubert he decided was that the province of Quebec should be a free state, though Mr. LaCrosse said that he did not believe in a free state. Mr. Chateaubert, M.P. for Quebec, said that the French-Canadian members had told Mr. Chateaubert he decided was that the province of Quebec should be a free state, though Mr. LaCrosse said that he did not believe in a free state.

candidate in Levis last provincial general election. J. E. Gregoire, former mayor of Quebec and Emile Rochette, a business man, who was chairman as well as speaker, were the other speakers. Dr. Philippe Hamel was out of town.

The meeting was not a large one considering the place and the issue. Only half the hall was filled when the meeting commenced, and at the end it was only comfortably filled, something rare in the history of meetings in this hall. The crowd was extremely well behaved, manifesting only slightly with a few boos for some—Mackenzie King and Hon. Louis St. Laurent, mainly—and a ripple of applause for Hon. C. G. Power, resigned Minister of Air.

Speakers spoke in most friendly terms of English-speaking compatriots in Canada. There were references to the "noble English race," and, said Mr. Chateaubert, if the majority of the English people of Canada did not see eye to eye with the French-Canadians in this matter of conscription it was because of the English language press.

There were strong appeals against noisy demonstrations, against anything so ridiculous as window smashing, as speakers put it, but the people were exhorted to practise the virtue of firmness, and not have an inferiority complex. Quebec had been betrayed, was a main theme which Wilfrid LaCrosse struck, and the speech of Hon. J. E. Gregoire.

King Says Copies of Radio Talk Sent Out to Boost Enlistments

By F. C. MEARS

(Gazette Resident Correspondent)

Ottawa, December 5.—A diverting interlude into the two-week debate on the government's motion of confidence for its granting limited conscription came this afternoon when the Prime Minister rose to give the House a brief written statement, in answer to queries by Dr. Herbert Bruce, (Toronto-Parkdale), to show that his radio address of November 8, an appeal for voluntary enlistment brought remarkable results.

"Hon. members may be interested to know" said Mr. King, to the accompaniment of Liberal applause, "that in the 26 days since November 8, the date on which the broadcast was made 6,297 men have volunteered for general service in the Canadian army, and of this number 2,701 are from the N.R.M.A. and the remainder 3,596, from the general public and the reserve army. These figures represent the largest enlistment for a similar period since the outbreak of war."

Mr. King made this statement in a reply to questions asked yesterday by Dr. Bruce who wanted to know if the Prime Minister would give orders to the Wartime Information Board to distribute 87,000 copies of the speech in the House by Col. J. L. Ralston showing the

failure of the voluntary system, which would even the count for the 87,000 copies of Premier King's radio address pleading for continuance of the voluntary system.

It was explained to the House today by the Prime Minister that he was under a misapprehension when he told Dr. Bruce yesterday he had given no instructions to the Wartime Information Board and was not in the habit of giving such directions, also he said he thought that Dr. Bruce had reference to his own speech in the House during the present sitting, and not his radio address.

But Mr. King declared today that as president of the Privy Council he was responsible for the activities of the Wartime Information Board, and that he took full responsibility for their action in distributing his broadcast. He described the broadcast as "in essence an appeal by myself as Prime Minister for public support of the recruiting campaign for reinforcements by voluntary enlistments."

"It contained," continued the Prime Minister, "significant information which the people of Canada were entitled to have and which it was desirable to have made known as widely as possible. If the appeal was to be effective it was obviously necessary that it should have a wide measure of public support."

"The distribution of the broadcast," said the Prime Minister, "by the Wartime Information Board was at the instance of the cabinet committee which had been formed to further the appeal for voluntary enlistments. If ever distribution was justified it was in this case of a speech making a national appeal on a matter of extreme urgency, the importance of which was everywhere recognized."

DEFEAT OF KING SAID UNLIKELY

No Election Until After War Is Seen Possibility Now

By F. C. MEARS

(Gazette Resident Correspondent)

Ottawa, December 5.—Canada has just had a federal general election, and without the use of a marked ballot. The people have expressed their will, and their will has prevailed. Both the electors and those who haven't a vote demanded conscription, their demand was presented to the Prime Minister by six of his colleagues, and the response went far enough to cause disturbances in Quebec, in British Columbia and in this capital, so why have another general election until the war in Europe is ended?

This seems to be the view of many on Parliament Hill, most of them Liberals, and to a large extent, it found expression in the Upper House on Friday from Senator Norman Lambert, who took care, however, to say he was stating his own personal view. Those who take this position contend they are realistic. They argue that immediate dissolution was averted when the Prime Minister heeded the public clamor, and in company with his new Defence Minister, reversed his military manpower policy.

It is also held by these people that even if Prime Minister King has many times assured the people he would not deny them their constitutional right of choosing a new Parliament every five years he could and would, under the pressure of public opinion, abandon this position as readily as he did his anti-conscription policy. Mr. King himself has shown his desire to avoid another wartime election if he can, and the supporters of that view think it might prevail.

But there are difficulties in the way of avoiding dissolution and election in the next six or eight months. The life of this parliament, which would normally expire on April 17 next, would have to be extended, and that could only be done through an amendment to the constitution.

The willingness of the British Parliament to grant an amendment to the B.N.A. Act to bypass another wartime election by extending the life of Parliament is questioned by some close students of the subject. These argue that on such an important issue Westminster would want an unanimous or, at least, an overwhelming demand from the Canadian House and Senate, and that is not regarded as probable.

Draftees for Overseas To Get Leave at Home

Ottawa, December 5.—Home defence troops scheduled to go overseas will be given embarkation leave, Navy Minister Macdonald said today in the Commons.

Replying to Norman Macdonald (P.C., Lincoln), Mr. Macdonald said he understood the minimum leave was 48-hours at home.

Mr. Macdonald said he would reply tomorrow to a question of T. L. Church (P.C., Toronto Broadview), who asked whether armed forces personnel granted Christmas or New Year's leave would be allowed travelling time besides five days leave.

Attitude of Draftees Is Blamed on Teachers

Ottawa, December 5.—(P.C., Alberta), speaking in the Senate today held women school teachers partially responsible for the attitude of home defence troops who refused to volunteer for general service.

Maj. Gen. Griesbach recalled conversations he had had with home defence personnel when he was inspector general for Western Canada earlier in the present war.

"I came to the conclusion that women teaching boys seven years and over was one of the reasons some of these men had no spirit to go to war," he said. "The rougher side of a man's nature is better for a boy at that age than the gentler side of a woman's nature."

Diefenbaker Lauds Conscription Debates

Ottawa, December 5.—After reading the hot conscription debates of 1917, John Diefenbaker (P.C., Lake Centre) said today in the Commons the present discussions were "on a very high plane, and one worthy of the highest traditions of parliamentary government in this country."

He spoke of the various sides of the question given by various members of the House and the manner in which they were generally received. He added: "Parliamentary government in this country has touched a high plane in the discussion of public affairs."

Black Asks Why Gen. McNaughton In House and Not with Troops

Ottawa, December 5.—(P.C., Progressive Conservative) member for the Yukon, and tonight in the Commons that Defence Minister McNaughton disagreed with the government's conscription policy but "he does not resign his lucrative position as a member of the government."

Speaking during continued debate on the government's confidence motion, Mr. Black said Gen. McNaughton had said in a speech at Arranpior, Ont., November 6 that Canada would have no army worthy of the name if it had been ruled other than by the voluntary method.

The American, British and Russian armies were conscript armies, and it could hardly be said that they were not armies worthy of the name.

"There is one matter that this House has not been informed of and of which this country has not been informed, and that is as to why the present Minister of National Defence is in Canada at all, and not with his men overseas," said Mr. Black.

He, to use the Prime Minister's words of him, "He, the builder, the first commander of the Canadian Army, I knew there was no man who had the interests of the army and the men overseas closer to his heart."

"If they are so close to his heart, why was he not over there with them? Not because of ill health. We had that from him. He announced it when he came home. You only have to look at him now to know he is in good health. If he could not have carried on as supreme commander he, if they were so close to his heart, might have stayed with them, have been with them where they now are on

the battle front instead of leaving them to go into battle without him. "He came home," was promoted after coming home, and on top of that he treats himself to a cabin of plum worth from \$12,000 too, if he can be elected, say \$16,000 a year."

"That is not McNaughton the soldier, the idol of the army, the idol of Canada, that is McNaughton the politician, the fallen idol, the idol with feet of clay."

At this point Prime Minister Mackenzie King interjected: "I think it would be worth Your Honor's (the Speaker's) while to listen to what the honorable member is saying. May I say to him that if I have not interrupted his time and again in his reference to Gen. McNaughton it is because I have been considering the source from which his remarks are being made."

Mr. Black replied: "I am quite willing to have the Prime Minister or anyone else in the world consider the source from which my words came, and I think the source will be found quite reliable and quite as respectable as some other sources."

George Cruickshank (L., Fraser Valley) interjected: "Who were they?" He received no reply.

Later, Speaker J. A. Glen interrupted Mr. Black to say that Gen. McNaughton, not being a member of the House, may not be entitled to the privileges that members enjoy, he is nevertheless minister of the Crown in charge of the Department of Defence, and suggest to the honorable gentleman that in his references to him should not impute motives which are neither friendly to Gen. McNaughton nor such as would do justice from the honorable gentleman."

Gardiner Denies Power Critic Of Eisenhower in House Speech

Ottawa, December 5.—Agriculture Minister Gardiner said tonight in the Commons that at no time in the House had former Air Minister Power criticized the policies or actions of Gen. Eisenhower, Allied invasion commander.

He rose after Clarence Gillis (C.C.F., Cape Breton South) said that "someone" had disagreed with the policy adopted by Gen. Eisenhower in keeping the army constantly occupied.

"My impression is that the army has to keep hammering and smashing all over the front," he said.

Mr. Gardiner said he had heard statements similar to those just made by Mr. Gillis and he suggested that Maj. Power's speech in the House on November 28 should be read.

(Maj. Power then made a brief statement indicating his opposition to the government policy under which authority was given to send 10,000 draftees overseas. His letter of resignation as minister had been read by Mr. King.)

"He is not here to speak for himself, and having heard him discuss that question before he discussed it in the House I wish to say that at

no time did he criticize Gen. Eisenhower's policy or actions," said Mr. Gardiner.

"He said what that policy was . . . and then he (Maj. Power) went on to say what we are told, not by Eisenhower but by some other people in this country."

Mr. Gillis said he had not mentioned any House member.

Mr. Gardiner: "He is the only person who is said to have criticized. I am quite sure that is the reference."

Mr. Gillis: "I have heard that policy criticized and my conception of it was that it was a criticism."

Mr. Gillis quoted from Maj. Power's review of Gen. Eisenhower's strategy of giving the enemy no rest or respite. He said he saw criticism in Maj. Power's statement.

"No commander will take his experienced men out of the unit and undertake an engagement with only the newly-arrived, however well-trained they may be. It seems to me that the logical thing, the reasonable thing is to take men out of the line temporary to refit, to re-equip, to rest, to recuperate and to fill gaps in their ranks."

Mr. Gardiner: "That is exactly what Eisenhower did."

SENATE ADJOURNS ITS SHORT SESSION

No Legislation Before Chamber to Be Dealt With, Says Senator King

Ottawa, December 5.—The Senate today completed a special sitting on overseas reinforcements and adjourned to January 31, 1945.

Dr. J. H. King, government Senate leader, moving the adjournment, said it was apparent there would be no legislation from the Commons to be dealt with by the Upper House.

Senator W. A. Griesbach (P.C., Alberta), final speaker in the debate, said Canadians were being asked to pay too high a price for national unity and democratic rule of the majority should be enforced.

Senator J. A. Calder (P.C., Saskatchewan) urged consideration of the question of overseas reinforcements and conscription from a national viewpoint. Opponents to conscription were to be found in all provinces.

The special sitting of the Senate was called shortly after the Commons had been summoned to discuss reinforcements. The Senate met November 22 but delayed its discussion for several days to allow the members to hear statements in the Commons by Prime Minister Mackenzie King, Defence Minister McNaughton and Col. J. L. Ralston, former Defence Minister. The senators also attended a secret session of the Commons.

Senator Calder said today members of the home defence army had been made available for compulsory overseas service and should not be classed as volunteers.

"The government made 16,000 men available for compulsory overseas service November 23 yet military authorities are still striving to get volunteers from the force that is compelled to go," the Regina senator said.

"These men are not volunteers, they know they are not and they should not be classed that way," he said.

Senator Calder said he saw no reason for Canada reducing her war commitments.

"Everybody hates conscription yet nation after nation around the world has been compelled to adopt it because of necessity," he said.

"This conscription problem is not a local one, it is not a trouble that exists only in Quebec, it exists in every part of Canada, and it must be viewed as a national issue."

Maj.-Gen. Griesbach, who was for a time inspector general for Western Canada during the present war, expressed criticism of military officers who had "misled" Col. Ralston.

"Under the voluntary system the cream of the population go to war first and what is left is the dregs of the military population," said the Edmonton senator.

"Conscription is not necessarily just a war policy, it is a policy under which young men can be brought forward and trained in peacetime."

It was a surprising thing that Col. Ralston as Defence Minister had been unable to get truthful reports on the reinforcement situation.

King Says No Promises On Conscription Order

Ottawa, December 5.—Prime Minister Mackenzie King said today in the Commons he had "made no promise to anyone" that his partial conscription order would be the last one brought down by his government.

John Diefenbaker (P.C., Lake Centre), speaking in support of the opposition amendment calling for total conscription, asked the Prime Minister whether at any time during the last week or so he had "given assurance to any group or bloc or member of Parliament that this is the last order in council that will be brought down by this government."

Mr. King replied: "May I answer my honorable friend at once I have made no promise to anyone."

Mr. Diefenbaker reported: "That is exactly the point I have been making. The Prime Minister dare not tell the people of Canada that he intends to see that the 42,000 men (drafted infantry potential) are made available for overseas service and that there will be further orders in council. The answer he gives me is simply this: 'I won't tell you that. I won't tell

the people of Canada that.' Well, Mr. Speaker, the people of Canada want an answer to that question. They want to know that we are not shadow boxing with this problem."

Press Gallery Party Planned for Premier

Ottawa, December 5.—Prime Minister Mackenzie King has accepted an invitation to be the guest of the parliamentary press gallery at a dinner in his honor Saturday, December 16, the eve of his 70th birthday, the gallery announced today.

H. R. Armstrong of the Toronto Star, gallery president, said a "suitable presentation" will be made to Mr. King by the parliamentary correspondents, who number approximately 50 and represent newspapers and news services across Canada.

"The dinner and presentation are being tendered Mr. King, not as Liberal leader nor as Prime Minister, but as a great Canadian," Mr. Armstrong said. "It is a tribute to a man who for almost 45 years has been closely associated with Canadian public life, during 17 years of which he has headed the Canadian Government."

DeLalanne Said Slated Recruiting Director

Ottawa, December 5.—Brig. J. A. deLalanne, director of organization at Defence Headquarters, will succeed Brig. James Mess as director of recruiting, it was reported here today.

Brig. Mess recently resigned and his resignation takes effect December 20.

OFFENDING WORDS TO BE WITHDRAWN

Utterances of Bruce, Black and Choquette Are Stricken From Record

Ottawa, December 5.—An estimated 900 words were expunged from the Commons record today, considered by officials to be a record for recent years.

The words struck out were uttered in speeches by Hon. Dr. H. A. Bruce (P.C., Toronto, Parkdale), George Black (P.C., Yukon) and Armand Choquette (B.P., Stanstead) and in discussion when the Speaker and in discussion when the Speaker ruled their statements out of order.

Objection was taken to brief quotations in speeches by Dr. Bruce and Mr. Black suggesting that government policy would be responsible for the deaths of men now overseas. After brief discussion, the words were withdrawn and expunged from the record.

Mr. Choquette had said in part that men were being sent to their death on the battlefield to allow a government to find its way out of a cabinet crisis.

Speaker Glen said Mr. Choquette's remarks were a blot on the escutcheon of the House and they were ordered expunged.

During a speech on the government's confidence motion, Dr. Bruce said that Mr. King had preferred "to break his pledged word and sacrifice the lives of our Canadian boys on the battlefields of France and Italy rather than lose votes in the province of Quebec."

He was speaking of the government's attitude on overseas conscription.

Speaker Glen said that all House members were entitled to protection and the words represented "a reprehensible attack" on the Prime Minister. He suggested that when Dr. Bruce examined the import of his words he would agree they should be stricken from the record. He asked if Dr. Bruce desired that they be so expunged.

Dr. Bruce said that he had expressed his opinion as he had the right to do and he could see no reason for having his words expunged.

Speaker Glen said he was sure that when Dr. Bruce examined his statement he would agree it was contrary to the House rules.

"I ask him to withdraw and have the words expunged from the record: I am sure the honorable mem-

ber will accede to my request," said Speaker Glen.

Dr. Bruce said he wondered if it would be satisfactory if he amended his statement to make it read that the Prime Minister's actions might result in future losses.

Speaker Glen said the suggested modification would not change the general statement.

Dr. Bruce said that in deference to Speaker Glen he was prepared to withdraw the words which had been used and the House turned to other business.

Shortly afterwards, Mr. King took objection to remarks by George Black (P.C., Yukon) and said they should be withdrawn.

Speaker Glen said he understood that Mr. Black had used a statement almost identical to that of Dr. Bruce, who had withdrawn.

"I said the policy of the government is costing the lives of men overseas," said Mr. Black.

Speaker Glen said he understood the words now used by Mr. Black were not those he had employed previously and a withdrawal of the previous remarks should be made, he would wait for the Hansard report to check the words used.

Later, Speaker Glen said that Mr. Black should withdraw his original statement, and Mr. Black acceded.

Attacks on McNaughton And Cabinet Mark Debate

Remarks Expunged From Hansard—
Col. Lapointe Wins House Applause

By James A. Oastler
Star Staff Correspondent

OTTAWA, Dec. 6.—Harsh words were used in Canada's House of Commons yesterday as the debate on the war policy of the King Administration continued and before the day's proceedings were ended Mr. Speaker had ordered no less than 900 words expunged from the record. Two Progressive Conservatives and one member of the Bloc Populaire will read Hansard today to find that some of their harsh words are missing.

There were kind words and brave words used, too, but when the session, highlighted by bad temper, had reached a conclusion, it was the harsh words that were being remembered, at least for the moment.

The outbursts started during the afternoon session when Dr. Herbert A. Bruce (Progressive Conservative, Toronto-Parkdale), former Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario, charged the Prime Minister with preferring to "break his pledge word and sacrifice the lives of our Canadian boys on the battlefields of France and Italy rather than lose the votes in the Province of Quebec." Out of the record went that statement.

Statement Expunged

Then George Black (Progressive Conservative, Yukon) charged Gen. McNaughton with being an "idiot with feet of clay." The Prime Minister refused to let that go by. The Speaker asked for a withdrawal. This was given. Then Mr. Black said the Government did not send reinforcements because they would lose some political support in a "certain part of Canada." He continued along that line and the Speaker ordered that from the record.

It was after the expunging of these two items that the Speaker ruled that the statement made by Armand Choquette (Bloc Populaire, Stanstead) to the effect that men were being sent to their death on the battlefield to allow a Government to find its way out of a Cabinet crisis be expunged. Speaker Glen said Mr. Choquette's remarks were a blot on the escutcheon of the House.

Colonel Lapointe said in referring to Mr. Black that members might have differences as to Government policies, but there was one thing on which all would agree, he thought, and that was "that a man who, like General McNaughton, has built the Canadian Army and has made it what it is now, should at least have a decent reception in this House. I understand the hon. member and his family have a very nice war record. I say, sir, that makes it worse because before being a politician himself he was a soldier and as such he should have the decency to mirror his words."

He was still of the opinion that the voluntary system was the only practical plan of recruiting an efficient army in the circumstances in which this country was.

Colonel Lapointe, pointed out that the voluntary system had provided Canada with an army of great strength "whose deeds will live forever in the most glorious pages of our national history."

Word Given

Personally, he had given his word to the electors and he could not "go back on the word which I

solemnly gave, especially when I am not convinced that this order-in-council was necessary."

One member of the House had suggested to Col. Lapointe the other day that if the amendment presented urging the Government to continue with the voluntary system were adopted, it would be considered that "we were deserting our boys overseas. . . . I do not believe that I am a deserter, I am no more of a deserter anyway, than some hon. members who refuse to give their support, and their full support, to the voluntary system when that policy was the only means of providing reinforcements for the men overseas. No one in the House knows more than I do what the boys at the front are going through. I do not believe that the sending over of 5,000, 10,000 or 15,000 N.R.M.A. personnel will change the situation. I do not believe it will relieve the pressure on the men now at the front, because that is not the way things take place. These men will be distributed all over the front. They will be swamped among other men who are already there. And, as the former Minister of National Defence for Air rightly pointed out, there is not one commander, no matter of what level he may be, who will take out his experienced men and replace them with N.R.M.A. personnel no matter how well trained they are. They will just fill the gaps at times; and the same men who have been carrying the fight throughout will keep plugging ahead."

He knew that because he had seen it done.

He did not challenge the courage of N.R.M.A. men. There was so much of courage on the battle fronts, "although there seems to be some here in Canada."

There was another reason why he could not agree with the Government on its change of policy. For a long time the people of Canada will have lost some of the faith they usually have in their public men. He feared that as a result of this change of policy that Canadians in all provinces would no longer have in their public men the confidence which he believed was so necessary in democratic institutions.

Colonel Lapointe told of some of the things he had seen on the battlefields. French Canadian units fighting side by side with units from all parts of Canada.

"There were no differences of race or creed on the beaches of

Normandy on D-Day, Mr. Speaker, when a tank unit from Winnipeg supported an infantry unit from Quebec. There was no national disunity on the airfield at Carpiquet, when men from the North Shore Regiment of New Brunswick and men from the Chaudiere Regiment of Quebec fought side by side, supporting each other. There was no national disunity on the hills of Falaise, when boys from Montreal and boys from the West went forward against the common foe. There was no national disunity on the cliffs at Calais and Boulogne when the men from Toronto and the men from the Lower St. Lawrence fought together and pushed Jerry back into the sea. Surely if the men at the front can achieve this national unity and attain this spirit of brotherhood the people back in Canada, and especially hon. members of this House, can fight the war on the home front following the example set for them by our Canadian boys overseas."

The Prime Minister crossed over to Colonel Lapointe and shook him warmly by the hand a few minutes after the Quebec member concluded.

Diefenbaker Speaks

John G. Diefenbaker (Prog. Con., Lake Centre) expressed the opinion that the vast majority of people did not want partial conscription. "They demand impartial conscription. They demand reinforcements."

The order-in-council in its very essence established rationed conscription, "politically designed and by its very nature denying equality of service and sacrifice everywhere in Canada. That order-in-council perpetuates the discrimination and inequality of service that characterizes the administration of the N.R.M.A. in Canada and by selecting 16,000 to go overseas and failing to say to the rest that they, too, shall be trained and made available and that they shall be sent overseas according to their training and fitness—in our failure to face that situation we endanger the last vestige of unity in this country."

Canada today, as a result of the unfairness in which the administration of the N.R.M.A. has been conducted, is torn by legitimate grievances, accompanied by prejudice and by senseless bigotry, "and I ask you, sir, and through you the Government, even at this late hour, to ensure that all provinces in Canada shall be equal under this administration, for only through equality among all provinces will there be Canadian unity."

Mr. Diefenbaker charged that in one part of Canada the Government states that the order-in-council covers only 16,000; in another part of Canada it can say, as General McNaughton said, it may not cover anybody, and in still other parts of Canada those who support it will be able to say: "Well, it covers everybody if you read it carefully. I ask the Prime Minister when he replies to answer this question, because the Canadian people demand an answer."

Just as he started to read from a letter which he said would give some indication why there had been an increase in N.R.M.A. enlistments for general service during the past few days, Hon. Ernest Bertrand, Minister of Fisheries interjected, "because there is no more balance."

Bertrand Denounced

Mr. Diefenbaker: "There is no more sabotage? Let me say to the Minister of Fisheries that when he delivered that speech in Valleyfield, Que., no man in this House had ever done the harm to Canadian unity that he did in that speech."

I say to you, sir, that on Nov. 8, the Minister made a statement that there would never be conscription; that the war was over; that never would he alter his opinion. Why is he in the Cabinet?"

Mr. Bertrand: "I never made the statement that the war was over."

Hon. R. B. Hanson (Prog.-Con., York Sunbury): "The press said you did."

Then he went on to deal with the kind of representation that was being made to the N.R.M.A. men. These men find representations made to them in the last few days, at Petawawa Camp, that if they enlist now, instead of being sent overseas compulsorily, they will have their enlistment for active service ante-dated six months. Mr. Diefenbaker said that he took the

responsibility for saying that these representations were being made. He claimed that the representation was also being made that if these men enlisted now they could secure the voluntary service medal in one year instead of 18 months. Also non-commissioned officers in the N.R.M.A. were being told that if they were active their rank would be confirmed.

Reinforcements were on the way, Mr. Diefenbaker concluded, but a divided Cabinet would carry out this policy, a Cabinet in which there certainly are members who do not believe in that policy. "There is only one way this matter can be decided, and that is not by an extension of the life of Parliament but by giving the people an opportunity to speak and giving them it now."

Bruce Heard

Dr. H. A. Bruce (Prog. Con., Toronto Parkdale) felt that the people of Canada wanted an all-out use of its man-power. They would not be satisfied with any half-hearted or uncertain measures "such as this."

The new Minister of National Defence was making it appear that it would be a grievous sin against national unity if we employed our men in uniform where those men would be of some use. Then in the very act of sinning in this way he vigorously proclaimed his unblemished virtue because he has not sinned more.

Unless the members showed they were red-blooded men, worthy of being called Canadians, and demanded an all-out use of the soldiers in uniform wherever they were needed "we shall be shamed before the whole world and we shall have sown in the minds of the best of our youth seeds of injustice which may bring stern retribution when they return again to their homes in Canada."

If the Prime Minister will not discharge the sacred duty of his office which he has been entrusted with, he should efface himself in the national interest; he should make way at once for a real war leader who is prepared to enact and enforce total conscription to maintain our gallant fighting forces in full strength.

Black Protests

Mr. Black (Yukon) claimed that the present meeting of Parliament was entirely unnecessary and a waste of time and public money. The Government needed nothing further than it had got from Parliament already.

The Prime Minister had cast about for a Moses to lead him and his Government out of the dilemma in which they had placed themselves and they thought they had found him in General McNaughton. "What reason was there to suppose he understood Canada better than the Minister of Defence?"

The Minister of Defence was forced to resign and he was replaced by General McNaughton. It did not take General McNaughton five years to fail, Mr. Black claimed. He failed from the beginning.

General McNaughton was opposed to the policy of "partial conscription" and had declared to the House that he would not carry it out unless he was forced to do so.

"Imagine a Minister of the Crown saying that of the policy of the Government that he would not carry it out unless he is forced to do so? He disagrees with the policy of his Government but he does not resign his lucrative position as a member of the Government."

Mr. Black asked why it was that the present Minister of National Defence was in Canada at all? Why was he not overseas? Not because of ill health.

"We had it from him. He announced it when he came home. You only have to look at him now to know he is in good health. If he could not have carried on as supreme commander he, if the Government had not been so

600 Quebec Troops 'Home' From B.C.

VALCARTIER, Dec. 6 — (B.U.P.) — More than 600 laughing, singing French-Canadian troops today are occupying the Valcartier military training camp, ending the four-day trip from the west coast which brought them to what some called "home again" and others referred to as "Canada."

The soldiers were members of the 20th Field Artillery which comprises the 24th, 72nd and 75th Batteries under the command of Lt. Col. Charles Auguste Sabourin, of Sarnia, Ont.

Made up for the most part of Home Defence troops, the soldiers won some measure of fame last summer when they trekked from Vancouver Island to Wainwright, Alta., a distance of almost 1,200 miles in 11 days, crossing the Rockies in military trucks.

Pacific Coast Attacked

Several of them, among them Maurice St. Louis of Montreal, referred to Prince George as "a terrible hole" and scored the Pacific coast province newspapers for alleged discrimination against French Canadian Home Defence troops. St. Louis said that there had been many cases of servicemen's wives stranded because landlords and housekeepers would not accommodate them with rooms if their husbands did not wear the "general service" insignia on their sleeves.

Lance Bombardier Lucien Courtemanche, of Montreal; Gunner Hercule Lecourt, of Springfield, and Jean Prenovost, of Three Rivers, said that they knew of occasions when the Canadian Legion had closed its doors to them in Vancouver because they had not volunteered for overseas service.

Difficulties Denied

Lt.-Col. Sabourin told the British United Press that he personally knew of no such incidents but said that when he told his men they were leaving for Quebec "bedlam broke loose for five minutes." He stated that there had been "no difficulties with the public on any front."

The officer believed that now that the French-Canadian troops were "at home" and "among their own" there would be a substantial 40-45 per cent increase in general service enlistments.

Among the other returned men were Sgt. G. Germain, of St. Dry, Didsay; Sgt. R. Beaulieu, of Riviere du Loup; Sgt. L. Boudreau, of Yarmouth, N.S., and Germain, of Coteau Station. The men said there had been "minor incidents" during their year's stay in British Columbia, "but we are happy to be back among our own people even to bother reminding them."

The 20th is the only all-French Canadian field gunnery unit in the British Empire.

AT DER

Laurent Backs Draft Overseas if Necessary

Justice Minister Makes Appeal For Acceptance by Compatriots

By James A. Oastler
Star Staff Correspondent

OTTAWA, Dec. 7.—So long as any N.R.M.A. men are available, now in service or hereafter enrolled, there will be adequate reinforcements for the forces overseas the House of Commons was told yesterday by Hon. L. St. Laurent, Minister of Justice, as he challenged the members, whatever their individual opinions, to unite and assist to the men overseas that Canada, from ocean to the other, stands pledged to a victory that will

was not a lengthy speech — one of the shortest of the session called to consider Canada's reinforcement problem — but it was a speech that caused no less than 22 interruptions while the members applauded the representative from the East.

No Interruptions
of the applause, and at times was loud and vigorous, there were no other interruptions. Mr. St. Laurent spoke quietly and with realization of the heavy burden that had been placed on his shoulders at this time. There was no cheering. He said his piece with head high and serious sincerity.

At the opening of the evening session Premier King announced that the House would open at 11 in an effort to conclude proceedings by this evening. There was all probability be five divisions before the members can leave for home after more than two weeks of debating.

A considerable number of other members expressed their views on the confidence motion before the House but it was the address by Mr. St. Laurent that stood out.

The Minister of Justice said that while all members of the House might not agree with what he said he asked them to consider carefully and dispassionately whether his words did not represent a true statement of the factual background.

Victory Essential
He believed Canada's participation in the war was absolutely essential to the survival of the nation as a nation of free men. Had it not been for the heroic resistance of the people of Britain in 1941 we here in Canada would have been dead or slaves of Nazi Germany and masters. This resistance purchased the time necessary to enable North America to meet the "terrible menace" that threatened and also time to gather the necessary resources to meet and overcome that menace.

He also believed that the resistance of the people of Britain at that time might have proved to be insufficient without the presence of General McNaughton and the gallant Canadian troops.

He believed that, this time, we must pursue our victory to the conclusion that never again may any Germans or Japanese threaten today or any of their children, dare to threaten the peace of the world and endeavor to ensure it.

The nation must, Mr. St. Laurent went on, continue to contribute its full share to the joint effort of the free nations pledged to ensure and consolidate that peace of victory.

He called for all members of the House and those that they represent — these men are enduring, they are bleeding and dying this very day while we are here talking and debating as to how best we can get so that the number of men who may become casualties shall not be increased.

Of 22 it appeared that the members required for substantial reserves would be greater than were apt to come forward in answer to the voluntary plan

and no one but a fit and trained man could meet this requirement. He heeded the plea of the Prime Minister. He fully realized the possible and probable reaction in Quebec.

"But I came here to do a war job because it was felt by the Prime Minister, rightly or wrongly, that I could be of help. I feel that I must still go on whatever may be the increase in the difficulties of the task so long as it is apparent to me that these difficulties arise out of facts which have a bearing on the security of the men who are doing so much more for us than anything we can do for them."

Dupuis' Position

Vincent Dupuis (Lib., Chambly-Rouville) claimed that a state of complete confusion existed in Canada at the present time. The temper of the people was upset and their otherwise good judgment disturbed. The body politic was threatened with total disruption. He claimed that it was not true that unless there were immediate reinforcements of 16,000 men sent to the Canadian forces at the front would be without help or support.

Taking the army, air force and navy into consideration, Canada actually had 11 divisions fighting. This, he inferred, was a very high proportion.

The contribution of the province of Quebec to the war was one that satisfied him. In the circumstances it was larger than may even be justified.

Adamson View

A. R. Adamson (Prog. Con., York West) said with reference to the charge that the movement calling for conscription for overseas service came from the wealthy, from Conservatives, from pressure groups and the newspapers, that instead it came from the poor working people of the country.

H. R. Jackman (Prog. Con., Toronto-Rosedale) charged that the Government confidence motion was purposely designed to mean all things to all people. The people were entitled to know just where they were in the Cabinet stood. There was no assurance of what the Cabinet policy is as to reinforcements.

G. A. Cruickshank (Lib., Fraser Valley) insisted that reinforcement had been in effect for some time, the only trouble was that it was conscription for a limited number and for a limited area. He had always and still did believe that a volunteer was superior to a conscript, but the time had come when the infantry must have help, either volunteers or from the N.R.M.A. or both. Nothing else than reinforcements now matters.

It was not clear to him why the Canadian staff did not make ample provision for sufficient reinforcements for such a very small percentage of the army that was in the infantry. "It would appear that too much of their time was taken up with concentrating on the promotion

of some of those in the higher ranks."

Supports Amendment

Mr. Cruickshank said that he would vote for the Progressive Conservative amendment but if that were defeated would vote for the Government as he realized 16,000 reinforcements out of the N.R.M.A. personnel were better than none at all as desired by isolationists who would vote against the Government.

Jean Francois Pouliot (Ind. Lib., Temiscouata), said the main reason he had crossed the floor was that the Prime Minister was more liberal in his speeches than in his actions.

He regretted very much that from the beginning of the war the Government had boasted only those who volunteered and had ignored the others who were doing so much for the war effort here in Canada.

W. Bryce (C.C.F., Selkirk) thought that it was really a matter more of man-power than of reinforcements. He thought that we had "blitten off more than we can chew." The greatest failure of the Government has been its failure to properly estimate its manpower needs at home and in the armed forces and then take a firm stand to meet these needs from its man-power resources.

Stuart Action Is Criticized

OTTAWA, Dec. 7.—(C.P.)—Rodney Adamson (P.C.—York West) said in the Commons that Lieut.-Gen. Kenneth Stuart, former Chief of Staff overseas, had undertaken a policy of re-mustering the Army, apparently without consulting Ottawa, because he knew of the antipathy of the Government to conscription. Speaking in continued debate on the Government's confidence motion, Mr. Adamson said the Government had reason to know in good time of the prospective shortage of infantry reinforcements.

On Aug. 6, Gen. Crerar, Army commander, had sent a telegram on the situation to Canadian Military Headquarters in London.

"Apparently the Adjutant-General's branch at C.M.H.Q. did not instantly inform National Defence Headquarters of the contents of that telegram," said Mr. Adamson.

"In the first place I think that was an amazing action."

"Then we had Gen. Stuart undertaking the policy of re-mustering the Army, apparently without consulting Ottawa, because he knew of the antipathy of the Government to conscription."

When Hon. J. L. Ralston, former Defence Minister, telegraphed Mr. King from overseas in October that he had curtailed his trip to the battlefronts and desired to see the Prime Minister urgently the latter must have known that the message to be brought to the government would be bad and demand immediate action.

"What happened?" Mr. Adamson continued.

"In the Prime Minister's own words, he consulted the present Minister of National Defence, whose views he knew were in favor of the voluntary system. He did that so that when the former Minister of National Defence arrived home he would have a running mate or someone ready to jump into his place if he was adamant."

"And he would have us believe that he saved the day. That may have been a political manoeuvre but it was one of the worst things that has ever happened in the political history of this country."

Units' Names Urged in News

OTTAWA, Dec. 7.—(C.P.)—A plan that security be relaxed to a greater extent on mention of Canadian units on the battlefronts was made in the Commons by Gordon Graydon, Progressive Conservative House leader.

Mr. Graydon said he had received a letter from one of his constituents serving as a Major overseas. The Major said it would be a good morale builder if units were more frequently identified.

Hon. Angus L. Macdonald, spokesman in the House for the three Defence ministries, said he would be glad to take up the question with Hon. A. G. L. McNaughton, Defence Minister.

Mr. Graydon said that since he had framed his question Ottawa had "bulged with pride" at the reported brilliant work of the local Princess Louise Dragoon Guards at Ravenna in Italy. This was a case where the unit had been identified. He wondered if this identification could not be made general.

Defence Headquarters said that sometimes security would only permit the identification of a unit as "an Eastern Ontario Regiment" while at other times the unit's specific identity was given.

Ottawa Fills Overseas Quota

OTTAWA, Dec. 7.—(C.P.)—National Defence Headquarters said the first quota of 200 men from the Ottawa area as reinforcement overseas has been filled.

Army establishments throughout Canada have been placed on a quota basis for the provision of men from general service personnel to act as reinforcements. Filling of these quotas has no relationship to the 16,000 men to be obtained from Home Defence forces. The 200 men already provided were General Service personnel who had volunteered for active duty and had then been assigned to offices in Ottawa. Another 200 is to be provided within the next few weeks.

Holiday Leave Is Discussed

OTTAWA, Dec. 7.—(C.P.)—A suggestion that service personnel might take the best advantage of their five-day Christmas or New Year's leave by also getting their annual leave, was made in the Commons by Hon. A. Macdonald, Navy Minister.

Replying to a question from Mr. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, Mr. Macdonald said it was true that the five-day optional Christmas or New Year's leave did not include travelling time but that if service personnel also could get their annual leave which was exclusive of travelling time, they could enjoy the holiday to best advantage.

Mr. Coldwell said the fact that the Yuletide leave was not exclusive of travelling time worked a hardship on men stationed a long way from home.

Mr. Macdonald said that if these men got their annual leave or any portion of it that remained, they would not have to worry about travelling time.

Complete Text of Justice Minister's Speech in Parliament

Following is the complete text of the address of Hon. Louis St. Laurent, Minister of Justice, in the House of Commons yesterday:

"One of the gentlemen who sit up above your head in the Press Gallery has commented on this debate in the following terms: '... So various are the approaches to the current political row that it would be virtually impossible to pick out one sentence from the whole of Hansard and have everyone agree that it was the real truth of the matter.'"

"I am not so optimistic as to hope to correct that impression, but I do wish to summarize as briefly as I can some of what appear to me to be the real truths of the matter which I have been discussing for several days with my fellow members from Quebec. All the members of this House may not agree with the conclusions I propose to draw from them, but I do appeal to all members of this House to consider carefully and dispassionately whether they do not represent a true statement of the factual background."

I believe that Canada's participation in this terrible war to the magnificent extent to which it has been and is being realized, was absolutely essential to the survival of this nation as a nation of free men. I believe that had it not been for the heroic and obstinate and successful resistance of the people of England and Scotland and Wales during 1940 and 1941, we, here in Canada, would now be either dead or slaves of Nazi victors and masters. I believe that this heroic obstinate and successful resistance purchased the time necessary to enable the people of the North-American continent to appreciate the terrible menace which threatened them all as free men, and also the time required to muster their resources to the extent necessary to meet and to overcome that menace."

I believe that—as has already been asserted in this debate—this resistance of the people of England and Scotland and Wales, heroic and obstinate and valorous and glorious as it was, might have proved to be insufficient without the presence in that citadel of freedom of General McNaughton and his gallant Canadian troops."

Precious Time Gained

I believe that without the contribution of our airmen in the mighty battles that were fought over the skies of the British Isles, that without the contribution of our Navy to the maintenance of the life line between them and this continent, sufficient time might not have been purchased to prepare all that the defence of our own lives, and homes, and liberties, has required and still requires."

I believe that the time thus purchased had to be used, and it was used, both to the purpose of making the men and women of this continent conscious of the danger that threatened the world, and to the purpose of mobilizing our resources to meet

total war by waging total war against it."

Now, total war for this young nation—and probably also for our powerful neighbours to the South—did not mean only great expansion in our Navy and in our Air Force and the raising of the largest expeditionary Army that this country could properly maintain and equip, but it also meant great extensification in our agricultural production to meet the indispensable food requirements, the establishing and manning of hundreds and perhaps thousands of new industries to turn out the indispensable implements of warfare, and entirely new conceptions and techniques to finance, total war through our own domestic monetary machinery."

And even now, Mr. Speaker, we must still remember that all that has to go on and must be kept in proper balance until full victory is achieved."

I also believe that, this time, we must pursue our victory to such a conclusion that never again may any Germans or Japanese living today or any of their children, dare to threaten the peace of the world and endeavour to enslave it."

I believe that this nation must continue to contribute its full share to the joint efforts of that gallant company of free nations pledged and determined to achieve and to consolidate that kind of victory."

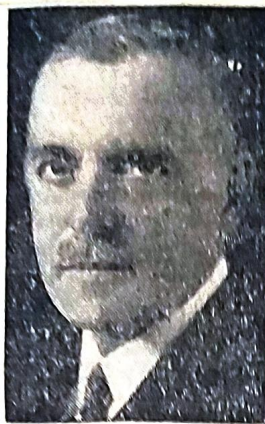
Tribute to Services

I believe that our Canadian men in our Navy, our Army and our Air Force, who have fought and are fighting in that gallant company, have done so and are doing so at our instance, for us, so that we who are sitting here today and those whom we represent in this assembly, may continue to live and to enjoy and to operate our free democratic social institutions. It is for us, for you and for me Mr. Speaker, for our colleagues in this House and for those we represent, that these men are enquiring, are bleeding and dying this very day while we are here talking and debating as to how best we can act so that the numbers of them who may become casualties shall not be increased."

Up to the evening of November 22, I sincerely believed that that object could be best achieved by adhering to the voluntary system under which over 900 thousand of our bravest and best have offered their services in this great cause. I believed that sufficient additional reinforcements might still be obtained by that voluntary system. I also believed that our infantry troops having had two pivotal jobs to do and having done them with great success but also at severe cost during long periods of intense activity, they might properly have compensating periods of normal activity or quiet during which the normal flow of reinforcements into our pools would make up for the heavy strain that had been put upon those pools during the preceding weeks of so intense activity. This seemed doubly true in view of the great numbers of fighting men in North-Western Europe, of the coming into the line of the French army and of the Belgian army to do their share."

Two Different Aspects

The Prime Minister has told the House that, on November 22, General McNaughton himself in conference with his staff, had come to certain conclusions and had presented them to the Government on the evening of that



Hon. Louis St. Laurent, M.C.

day. As a result of that presentation I had to bring my mind to bear upon two different aspects of the problem, which had not before impressed me as they had perhaps already impressed some of my colleagues."

One was, that without adequate infantry units equal to any tasks that the fortunes of battle might at any time bring into being, none of our troops could venture into the fighting line and our whole fighting effort would remain paralyzed."

I was made to realize that our infantry troops make up only one-fifth in numbers of our fighting arms, and I felt that we could not expect periods of comparative or total inactivity for this infantry to wipe out any margin of possible shortage in infantry reinforcements, if those periods of comparative or total inactivity had to be shared by the other four-fifths of our fighting units and all of them remain out of action."

That was something that just could not be allowed to happen. I readily imagined what, under Nazi propaganda might make of this appearance that the Canadian forces were no longer in the fight. Would it not have been used to the dreadful purpose of stiffening resistance and promising the German people that it was an example which other Allied forces might soon be disposed to follow, and that all they had to do was to hold on long enough and they would wear us all out? Who can tell what prolongation of this terrible conflict that might have meant?"

The other aspect I had to consider was the possible psychological effect of inadequate reinforcement pools in the battle areas and in England. I was impressed by the consideration that the possible inadequacy of such pools might affect the morale of the men in the fighting lines to an extent that would make them more vulnerable in battle; this in turn might mean casualties that would not otherwise be incurred. Now, that consideration was also of great weight, one which each one of us had to face in his own conscience. Those men in the fighting lines are fighting our battles for us and at our behest, and their lives must be guarded in every way that is dependent upon action that can be taken from here."

Heeded Premier's Appeal

Now, on November 22 it appeared that for the reasons

which have already been discussed, or at least for some very good or bad, the numbers required for these substantial reserves might be larger than were apt to be provided by the voluntary conversion of trained and fit personnel in our N.R.M.A. Forces to general service, and no one but a fit and already trained man could meet this requirement. I therefore heeded the passionate appeal which the Prime Minister has told you he made to everyone of his colleagues."

I fully realized the possible and probable reactions among a great many in my Province to my conduct in accepting to go on when any measure whatsoever of compulsion is added to the voluntary system for service overseas as the policy of the Government. But I came here to do a war job and because it was told by the Prime Minister, rightly or wrongly, that I could be of help, I feel I must still go on whatever may be the increase in the difficulties of the task, no long as it is made apparent to me that those difficulties arise out of facts which have a bearing on the security of the men who are doing no much more for us than anything we can do for them."

I still felt and I hoped that compulsion might not be necessary to secure in time the required number of fit and trained men. In view of the magnificent success of the voluntary system in the last few days and the mounting numbers of fit and trained men now coming forward, there is some ample justification for that feeling and that hope. But no chances could be taken about it, and I decided that I would stand or fall with the Prime Minister. I may add, Mr. Speaker, that I have taken and I still take both comfort and pride in that decision."

I also take comfort and pride in the knowledge that so long as any N.R.M.A. men are available, whether now in service or hereafter enrolled, adequate and timely reinforcements are fully assured. And that being fully and amply assured, who can begrudge me such comfort and pride as I can get out of the fact that the increase in the conversions from N.R.M.A. status to general service seems to indicate that with the passing of the Order-in-Council itself no actual compulsion may ever have to be resorted to?"

Will Be No Delay

The all important fact is that the reinforcements will be neither insufficient nor delayed. Some members of this House wish to register again their opposition to the legal extension of the locality of service of these N.R.M.A. men, but a large majority is apt to be recorded against the sub-amendment supported by those members. If such should be the case, I appeal to them to accept that democratic decision in a democratic way. I am sure they can do so without accepting the concept of democracy which is sometimes asserted: the concept that it is both a legal right and a proper exercise of that right for a majority to assert its will at all times and in all occasions, regardless of the feelings and views of the minority and of the reasons for such feelings and views."

That is not my concept of the kind of democracy suited to free men; the kind of democracy for

which the free nations are waging this war. It is not the kind of democracy which was envisaged by the Fathers of Confederation for the kind of democracy that will bring to full fruition the constitution which unites in one nation the various elements which make up our Canadian people. The will of the majority must be respected and it must prevail. But I trust that, here in Canada, the majority will always as it is doing in this case, assert that will only after giving due consideration to the feelings and views of the minority and to the reasons for such feelings and views, and then only to the extent to which the majority is sincerely convinced that the general interests of the whole body politic require that it be thus asserted."

Much feeling has been stirred up over the issue now before this House. We each of us have our own views as to how and why this has come about, but whatever be those views and whatever be the causes and whenever there may be room for blame and reprimand, there had come into existence a real and a grave situation which had to be met and which had to be dealt with."

Unity Is Urged

Believing as I do that the majority in this House, after giving its best consideration to the facts which have been brought to light in this long and earnest debate, is sincerely convinced of the wisdom of this Order-in-Council P.C. 3891, was necessary to the proper conduct of the affairs of the Canadian body politic as a whole, and believing as I do that whenever the majority, after full consultation and mature deliberation, reaches a conclusion of that kind, it is proper the minority should accept it and loyally assist in carrying it out, I appeal to all the Members of this House, whatever may have been their individual views—whether to do more or to do less than the Order-in-Council provides—to unite and to assist to the men overseas that this nation, from one ocean to the other, stands pledged to a victory that will be decisive and that will endure."

Mr. Speaker, we have been urged in the course of this debate to keep our eye on the ball. We must keep our eye on the ball, but the ball is the decisive and enduring victory itself; and decisive and enduring victory still requires as well both the heroic efforts of our Navy, our Army and our Air Force, and the full and continuing co-operation of all our farmers, and fishermen and foresters, and miners; all those who toil in our shipyards, our factories, our munition plants, our transportation system, our laboratories and our administration offices, all the members of our National War Finance Committee and all those to whom they make their periodical appeals for further funds. There is still a job for each and everyone of us to do, and it can be done only through the united efforts of us all, whatever be our individual views about the best method to raise men for military service overseas."

Let us neglect nothing that is necessary for victory, but on the other hand, let us strive to avoid doing and saying anything that is not really necessary and that might destroy or impair the unity which has made and is required to make our efforts strong and constant and successful."

Unity Under Premier King Impossible, Says Bracken

His Party Backs Equal Responsibility And Equal Sacrifice for All, He Says

By James A. Oastler
Star Staff Correspondent

OTTAWA, Dec. 7.—If there cannot be unity in Canada on a policy of winning the war, what chance will there ever be that the country can unite to face the tasks of peace time reconstruction? That was the question which John Bracken, head of the Progressive Conservative party, posed to the people of this Dominion in a radio address last night.

Titled, "Reinforcements or Betrayal," Mr. Bracken said that the policy of his party favored no one, it imposed no unfair share of the load on anyone, and it left no stigma when the war was over. Only when every section of the nation accepts as the basic condition of nationhood equal responsibilities for all and equal sacrifices for all in times of war as well as in peace could there be national unity.

The leader of the Progressive Conservatives charged the Government with having toyed with the will of the majority in this war, not for the nation's good but for party advantage.

Reviews Party's Stand

The last six weeks had seen a national crisis shake the country as it had not been shaken since Confederation. He and his party had been accused of playing politics and he styled this an unwarranted attack. To substantiate this statement he reviewed the stand of the party since the outbreak of the war and said it was a policy which the party adopted at the convention in Winnipeg and "has never since departed from."

When the House of Commons sustains the Government on its present motion, and he felt it would, "by the vote of its many supporters and of different groups who do not wish to face the consequences of an election," it would be a vote to sustain a divided Ministry. In the Government there were Ministers absolutely opposed to conscription and others who had completely lost faith in the voluntary system.

The vote would not be one of confidence, it would be merely a suspended sentence.

Manipulation Claimed

Mr. Bracken said that "Mr. King would not be Prime Minister today but for his manipulation of the racial problem in this country."

"He has played one section against the other and he has played it to a point where he has brought this country to the very verge of national disaster and international dishonor," said the Progressive Conservative chief. "In the last two years, when men have been dying for their country, he has attempted to bolster himself in power by ignoring the majority."

"He held a plebiscite. Canada gave the answer. He passed legislation conforming to that answer. But that legislation he never put into effect for purely political reasons. Had Mr. King acted in accordance with the mandate he received in the plebiscite, this crisis which has shaken national unity to its very foundation could never have arisen."

Charges Quibbling

"The people of Canada accepted Mr. King's assurance that conscription would be imposed if and when it became necessary for the adequate reinforcement of our fighting men. It is now plain that he is quibbling on the meaning of his own pledge and misleading the people of Canada when he made it."

"The net result of this session," said Mr. Bracken, "and the past six weeks of controversy and delay may be summed up briefly:

"First, the Prime Minister dropped Colonel Ralston whose policy was right, and took in General McNaughton whose policy, like that of the Government, was wrong. The Government thus lost its best minister in the cabinet, and took in his place one who but a few months previously it had been dismissed from his post overseas."

"Second, the Government was forced to adopt, in part, the policy of the man the Prime Minister had dismissed; and to discard the policy of the Prime Minister and his new Minister of Defence."

Says Cabinet Split

"Third, Parliament has had a look behind the veil of Cabinet se-

crecy, and what it saw there was not reassuring. What it saw removed the last vestige of any confidence in the Government. What it saw was a Cabinet with no cohesion—one section determined to send overseas no more than 16,000 of the sixty-odd thousand in the Home Army. And the other section determined that all fit men in it should be fully used for reinforcements as they are needed."

"What Parliament saw was a badly split Cabinet—each part suspicious of the other, and neither part with any confidence in the Prime Minister. What Parliament saw revealed was a Cabinet led by a man whose twistings and turnings and double-talk have lost for him the confidence not only of his own Cabinet but of the party supporters in the House and the general public as well."

"The Canadian people," said Mr. Bracken, "are paying a big price today for the kind of leadership given by the Prime Minister and certain of his associates over the last 27 years."

Urged On June 19

The Conservative chief, stating his party's stand, said that on June 19 of this year "two weeks after D-day," Hon. C. P. McTague, national chairman of the Progressive Conservative party declared that "without an hour's delay the necessary order-in-council should be passed making reinforcements from the Home Army available overseas."

"Mr. McTague pointed out that since the war we had many statements from the Department of National Defence as to the urgency of reinforcements, and he added," said Mr. Bracken, "that 'national honor demands that without an hour's delay the necessary Order-in-Council should be passed making these reinforcements available.'"

"In this time of national emergency, surely there will be no Canadian who will find it in his heart to deny that appeal. Certainly it receives the endorsement of this party," said Mr. Bracken.

Wants Selective Draft

"On this matter I have stood throughout where the Canadian Legion has stood, and that is where I stand today—for the selective draft—compulsory and fair—and for using the men the Government has sheltered so long in its Home Army for service wherever required."

"What has been the stand of the parties?" asked Mr. Bracken.

"I have before me various statements by the leaders of what was the Communist party of Canada when war broke out. These men now call upon their party and others to back the Government and get on with the job of winning the war. From the beginning of the war, however, until June 1941, the advice we had from the members of that party was that we would be better employed in helping to lose the war, because it was a war to perpetuate sinister Imperialism."

"Where stood the C.C.F.?"

"If they had had their way at the outbreak of this war they would not have permitted, much less authorized, a single Canadian sailor, soldier or airman to fight for us overseas. Their record is clear. They were opposed to sending any expeditionary forces overseas. Now they are tumbling over themselves along a different tack."

Confidence Impossible

Mr. Bracken said that the Government has "unwillingly made a beginning in supplying much needed reinforcements." He added that there "can be no confidence in the policy of a government in a matter of vital concern in which there is a sharp division in the Ministry."

"Such confidence," he said, "will never be restored until there is placed in office a government that is united in policy and purpose, a government that is determined that this nation will not waste its man-power for political ends or call upon its sons unequally for party gain."

"Such a government," said Mr. Bracken, "it now is clear will not be obtained until there is an appeal to the people."

Says Majority Ignored

"In future we must see to it that no political party deliberately ignores the majority in Canada and gets away with it,—and the majority in Canada has been ignored."

Mr. Bracken added that the minorities in the country also "have been deceived, doubly deceived—when party politicians promised there would be no expeditionary force sent overseas and when they promised there would be no compulsory service for overseas."

"As a result of this kind of leadership," said Mr. Bracken, "this nation is divided today. And Canada cannot stand divided. It can stand only if it's united."

"The party I lead stands for Canadian unity," he added. "It believes that Confederation cannot endure on a foundation of inequity. It believes there can be lasting unity only when there is an approach to the equal sharing of burdens; and this will only come when every section of the nation accepts as the basic condition of nationhood—equal responsibilities for all and equal sacrifices for all in time of war as well as in time of peace."

Policy Clear

"The policy of his party with respect to reinforcements and man-power in time of war is very clear and specific. It is the policy I approved and accepted at Winnipeg before becoming its leader. It is the policy from which this party has never since departed."

"Some say it will not win us a large number of seats in certain sections of Canada. I do not subscribe to that view. In any event, the policy is right, because the nation cannot last on any other. Our policy favors no one, imposes on no one an unfair share of the load, leaves upon no one any stigma when the war is over. In my judgment that is the policy this nation needs and is determined to have when the war is over. I need scarcely add that the party I lead means to leave no stone unturned to see that the nation's will in this respect shall not again be thwarted."

Quotes Resolution

Mr. Bracken, charging the playing of politics, said that when Parliament met two weeks ago, Members of the House of Commons were asked "to support a resolution of confidence in the Government, moved by the Prime Minister in these terms:

"This House will aid the Government in its policy of maintaining a vigorous war effort."

"In this resolution," said Mr. Bracken, "the little possessive pronoun 'its' has more importance

than would appear on the surface. The Members of the House of Commons were not asked to support a vigorous war effort. They were asked to support the Government's policy, 'its' policy; and Members of Parliament had to satisfy themselves of what that policy was."

Policy Reversed

He pointed out that the Government's policy of maintaining the voluntary system was reversed after the first day's adjournment of Parliament and the next day, making 16,000 of 60,000 trained Home Army personnel available for overseas.

Mr. Bracken added there was "not a word in the Order-in-Council about maintaining the voluntary system. All press reports emanating from Ottawa on this subject were to the effect the Government had resorted to conscription."

"Yet on the same day, the new Minister of National Defence, General McNaughton," said Mr. Bracken, "astounded the House by announcing the Government was still determined to rely primarily on the voluntary system."

"There is only one method that can now be adopted with any reasonable degree of satisfaction to those serving in the Armed Forces," said the Conservative chief. "The National Resources Mobilization Act should be applied to the services as a whole. As it is, there are now three classes of Canadian soldiers:

1. General Service men for service anywhere;
2. Home Army men for service in certain designated areas;
3. Home Army men to stay in Canada only where they are not needed.

"Surely we have differences enough in this country and sufficient sources of national disunity without maintaining in Canada three categories of soldiers. The time is long past when a more honest policy should be applied without fear or favor throughout this country."

First "greenhorns" were persons in France who had to wear green horn-shaped hats to signify that they were bankrupt.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1944

A NATION'S HEALTH IS A NATION'S WEALTH

A STATESMAN-LIKE UTTERANCE

THE Hon. Louis St. Laurent's contribution to the reinforcement debate in the House of Commons offered impressive testimony from one who is determined to do his full wartime duty, whatever the personal or political consequences. His definition of attitude, his adherence to the democratic principle, places him among those great Canadians who, without surrendering one iota of their pride of race, put country ahead of party, duty before self-interest.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier stood before the House of Commons in parallel circumstances and affirmed his faith in democracy. The Minister of Justice must have been proudly aware of the parallel when he uttered this confession of faith:

"Believing as I do that the majority in this House, after giving its best consideration to the facts which have been brought to light in this long and earnest debate, is sincerely convinced the passing of this Order-in-Council P.C., 8891, was necessary to the proper conduct of the affairs of the Canadian body politic as a whole; and believing as I do that whenever the majority, after full consultation and mature deliberation, reaches a conclusion of that kind, it is proper the minority should accept it and loyally assist in carrying it out, I appeal to all the members of this House whatever may have been their individual views—whether to do more or to do less than the Order-in-Council provides—to unite and to assert to the men overseas that this nation, from one ocean to the other, stands pledged to a victory that will be decisive and that will endure."

This, in different words but with equal sincerity and eloquence, is what Sir Wilfrid Laurier said in 1917. Mr. St. Laurent's appeal is addressed not only to the House but to his compatriots. So was Sir Wilfrid's. Both were concerned to preserve the unity of the nation and were prepared to accept the responsibility of an unpopular decision to achieve and maintain that unity. Statesmanship can find no higher level.

Mr. St. Laurent's definition of attitude carries him further than the immediate issues before the House. "I believe," he said elsewhere in his address, "that this nation must continue to contribute its full share to the joint efforts of that gallant company of free nations pledged and determined to achieve and to consolidate that kind of victory." That "gallant company" of which the Minister speaks is composed, not alone of Canadians, not alone of French-Canadians; it comprises men of all nations pledged to the overthrow of the Nazi evil and to the victory of free men.

The Minister of Justice represents a constituency in which opposition remains strong to compulsory service. He represents a province in which opposition is widespread and sincere. It was therefore an act of high courage to accept, as he did, "the possible and probable reactions among a great many in my Province to my conduct in accepting to go on when any measure whatsoever of compulsion is added to the voluntary system for service overseas as the policy of the Government." It will be noted that the Minister places no limitations on his decision. He is prepared to accept whatever measure may be necessary to ensure the success of Canada's all-out war effort and, above all, to ensure the maintenance of our fighting forces overseas.

His further words illuminate a high concept of duty and responsibility:

"But I came here," he said, "to do a war job and because it was felt by the Prime Minister, rightly or wrongly, that I could be of help. I feel I must go on whatever may be the increase in the difficulties of the task, so long as it is made apparent to me that those difficulties arise out of the facts which have a bearing on the security of the men who are doing so much more for us than anything we can do for them."

Such a clear statement of purpose, clothed in splendid eloquence uttered with the sincerity no one denies the Minister, and based on the inescapable logic of Canada's war aims, should help persuade others in the House and country, both French and English, where their duty lies.

OTTAWA ACTION GIVEN SUPPORT BY ST. LAURENT

But Justice Minister Says Con- scription May Be Unnecessary If Draftees Keep Enlisting

(Gazette Resident Correspondent.)

Ottawa, December 6. — Admitting that he was taking his political life in his hands by so doing, Justice Minister Louis St. Laurent declared in the House today that he would support the government confidence motion on the sending of draftees overseas and pleaded with his French-speaking compatriots in Quebec for understanding and tolerance of the situation. At the same time Mr. St. Laurent suggested that the increase of enlistments from the N.R.M.A. to active service may obviate the necessity of conscripting draftees for overseas service.

Mr. St. Laurent pleaded with House members to accept the overseas conscription decision of the majority in a democratic way.

A fourth English-speaking Liberal announced tonight he would vote for the Graydon sub-amendment when George Cruickshank (Fraser Valley) criticized the government policy on conscription, but Mr. Cruickshank added he would vote for the government motion should the Progressive Conservative sub-amendment be defeated.

The afternoon and evening sessions also saw three Quebec French speaking Liberals A. Cloutier (Drummond-Arthabaska), Vincent Dupuis (Chamby-Rouville) and J. A. Crete (St. Maurice-Lafleche) announce they would vote against the government and for the Jean sub-amendment, but they said they were remaining Liberal supporters. J. F. Pouliot (Ind. L. Temiscouata) in announcing he would vote against the government motion and for the Jean sub-amendment declared, "The Liberal party is dead. The Prime Minister has killed it. It is just as dead as the Tory party." Other Quebec independents who said they would vote against the government on the stand that they opposed conscription were M. Bourgeois (Levis) and Charles Parent (Quebec West and South).

Progressive Conservatives announcing they would vote against the government motion and for the Graydon amendment were D. G. Rose (Toronto St. Paul's), H. R. Adamson (York West) and A. R. Adams (New Brunswick).

FIFTY SPEECHES

At least 50 speeches have already been delivered since the Prime Minister moved his motion of confidence in the government, and three sub-amendments have been ruled out of order, one moved by the C.C.F. group, one by the Social Credit Party and one by L. P. Picard (Bellechasse).

Now there are before the House the government's main motion, the opposition amendment which calls for complete application of conscription, and a sub-amendment of Joseph Jean (Mercier-Montreal) which permits the Quebec members to vote against conscription and then, if they choose, to support the government motion.

This emergency or special session began on November 22 with Mr. King reading to the House the correspondence between himself and Col. J. L. Ralston who on October 31 was forced to resign because he insisted upon adoption of conscription.

But on the very evening of November 22 the government took its policy somersault when Premier King bowed to the insistent demands of six of his colleagues in the cabinet and the next day in the House announced conscription but limited to the sending of 16,000 N.R.M.A. men overseas.

There followed two days during which the House listened to close questioning of Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, now Defence Minister, who though without a seat in Parliament was permitted to take a place in the chamber where he was bombarded with queries. Later there came an entire day devoted to a secret sitting for further questioning of General McNaughton.

"The fact that the increase in the conversions from N.R.M.A. status to general service seems to indicate that with the passing of the order-in-council itself no actual compulsion may ever have to be resorted to," said Justice Minister St. Laurent during the debate.

Bracken Charges Racial Is Manipulated by Pro

Ottawa, December 6. — John Bracken, National Progressive Conservative leader, said tonight a general election in the near future might prove unavoidable and in any event it should not be postponed beyond the life of Parliament.

Mr. Bracken, speaking over a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation network under the plan which provides free time for political broadcasts, reviewed the stand taken by the government and other parties on overseas reinforcements and called for action placing all 68,000 home defence forces on active service.

"Mr. King would not be Prime Minister today but for his political manipulation of the racial problem in this country," Mr. Bracken said. "He has played one section against the other and he has played it to a point where he has brought this country to the very verge of national disaster and international dishonor. In the last two years, when men have been dying for their country, he has attempted to bolster himself in power by ignoring the majority."

Mr. Bracken predicted the government's confidence motion now before Parliament would carry "by a substantial majority" and said it would have the support of those in different groups who wished to avoid a general election.

"We have offered to cooperate

with any man who squarely sought, but I am sure, a past in the become must not be life of this Mr. Bracken ed the gove ley early in the Progres went on a support for The only be adopted agree of sal armed for tion of the service.

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NOT TO EXTEND LIFE OF HOUSE

King Says He Has No Thought of Prolonging Term

By F. C. MEARS

(Gazette Resident Correspondent)

Ottawa, December 6.—The King Government will make no move to extend the life of this 19th Parliament which will normally expire on April 16, Prime Minister Mackenzie King assured Parliament today in reply to questions by Gordon Graydon, opposition chief.

It was also stated by the Prime Minister that to him it would be "wholly unthinkable," to have the government continue in power for a lengthy period after the parliamentary term had ended, that, in other words, there would be no delay in asking for dissolution.

Mr. King repeated his previous statement that the people of Canada would not be denied their constitutional right to select a new Parliament every five years, although he would at the same time do his utmost to avert a general election while the war in Europe lasted. It simply means that unless the fighting in Europe ends before the middle of April there will be dissolution at that time and a general election called for some date in the early part of June.

"I have been against the extension of the terms of parliament and legislatures right along," said Mr. King in answer to Gordon Graydon's questions. "When the constitution fixes a date for the people to exercise their right to send their representatives to a new parliament I think the constitution should be respected. Nothing has been farther from my mind at any time than to have an extension of the term of the present parliament beyond that which is fixed by the constitution."

"As to whether the government, should it continue to be in office up to the time of the expiration of the term, would then seek to take a long time before it asked for dissolution I have not any thought of the kind. My desire is that if at all possible the government should continue in office, discharging its duties as a government called upon to administer affairs in time of war, so long as the war continues, to avoid the possibility of an election during wartime."

"I have never thought it advisable," said Mr. King, "if it could be prevented that there should be a general election in Canada while men were fighting at the front, unless it became obviously necessary. So far as I can see at the moment the endeavor will be, if the government is sustained, to carry on while the war continues, but not beyond the period fixed by the constitution."

"As to fixing a period ahead to run on into months after a dissolution and before the government would have writs issued for the general election," said Mr. King, "to my mind that is wholly unthinkable."

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Racial Problem by Premier King

with any government led by any man who would face these issues squarely," he said. "We have not sought a general election at this time, but I think we have come to a point in this country where it may become unavoidable. Certainly it must not be postponed beyond the life of this Parliament."

Mr. Bracken said he had criticized the government's manpower policy early in 1942 and later that year the Progressive Conservative party went on record favoring all-out support for the forces.

The only method that now could be adopted with any reasonable degree of satisfaction to those in the armed forces was general application of the ability for overseas service.

"I can understand the view some hold that conscription is wrong and that they prefer the voluntary system," he said. "I can respect the view of those who hold it has become necessary to abandon the voluntary method; but I cannot respect the view of a leader of a government who now proclaims his belief in both policies at one and the same time and maintains a two-army system when only one is necessary."

"The vote will not be a vote of confidence. It will be a suspended sentence which hangs over the head of Mr. King and his war Minister of National Defence."

(Continue on Page 18, Col. 2.)

Montague Said Slated To Head London Staff

Ottawa, December 6. — Gen. Reports were current in military circles today that Maj.-Gen. Price Montague of Winnipeg, in charge of administration at Canadian military headquarters in London, is to be made chief of the staff there and promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general. Defence headquarters would not comment.

Gen. Montague assumed the chief of staff duties after the retirement recently of Lt.-Gen. Kenneth Stuart.

House Session May End Tonight; Big Government Majority Likely

Ottawa, December 6. — The Commons tonight decided to extend the hours of tomorrow's sitting in an effort to end the special overseas reinforcement sitting by tomorrow night.

A motion providing for sessions to start at 11 a.m., E.D.T., instead of 3 p.m. was presented by Prime Minister Mackenzie King who said he had conferred during tonight's dinner recess with Gordon Graydon, Progressive - Conservative House leader; M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader and John Blackmore, Social Credit House leader.

"There seems to be a general desire that the vote be not unduly prolonged," Mr. King said. "If it were continued for any length of time it might have an unsettling effect on the country."

Mr. King said it was hoped members would curtail the length of their speeches making it possible to reach the first division on a sub-amendment tonight or early tomorrow.

In reply to a question by Mr. Graydon the Prime Minister said no other business was to be brought before this sitting.

With a substantial block of Quebec members still uncommitted as

to their votes on the issue of confidence in the government members of the House of Commons today predicted a majority ranging from 30 to 65 for the government when the vote is taken sometime this week.

This prediction applies to the main motion which declares that the House will support the government in its policy of maintaining a vigorous war effort.

On the amendments now before the House and which may yet be proposed, there is even more uncertainty as to the outcome except for a general conviction that all will be defeated.

The Progressive Conservative amendment calling for making all home defence troops liable for service in any theatre of war is not expected to attract much support outside of that party but at least two Liberals, James Sinclair of Vancouver North and Harry Leader of Portage la Prairie will vote for it.

As for the other course of action—that of limiting the action of the Canadian Army—he presented a refutation equal to anything yet heard in Parliament. This alternative was something which "just could not be allowed to happen." It would be readily imagined, he said, what use the Nazi propagandists would make of the fact that the Canadians were withdrawing from the fight. It would have the "dreadful purpose" of stiffening the enemy resistance and of allowing the German leaders to declare that other Allied nations would soon follow, and that all that Germany would have to do would be to hold on long enough and she would yet wear the Allies out. "Who can tell," he asks, "what prolongation of this terrible conflict that might have meant?"

Mr. St. Laurent is fully aware of the difficulties which his stand may raise. "But I came here to do a war job," he says. "... I feel that I must still go on whatever may be the increase in the difficulties of the task, so long as it is made apparent to me that those difficulties arise out of facts which have a bearing on the security of the men who are doing so much more for us than anything we can do for them."

Though Mr. St. Laurent declares that he stands with his leader, his speech can only place in an unfortunate contrast those which his leader has made. For while Mr. King made the most of irrelevant side-issues, Mr. St. Laurent has rigorously ruled them out; while Mr. King resents that we should have to make "this further sacrifice" at this late stage of the war, Mr. St. Laurent sees it as no more than a necessary obligation to the troops; while Mr. King finds it "hardest to understand" that conscription should have been found necessary now that the war is so near its end, Mr. St. Laurent considers that the failure to introduce it might make the war longer; while Mr. King makes much of the alleged political clamor which has made conscription necessary, Mr. St. Laurent makes much of the obligations which the civilian owes to those men in the front lines who are fighting his battles for him.

In this wearying and confused debate it has been refreshing as it has been reassuring to hear a man who has brought the matter back to its essentials, and has presented it for what it is—a matter of reason, of conscience and of fact.

The French Press

Some Reflections on the Present Crisis
(Le Droit, Ottawa.)

The present political crisis may have accomplished some good. Numerous lessons are becoming apparent for those who care to see clearly.

One must certainly admit today that the two traditional parties are infused with the same imperialistic spirit in the matter of foreign policy. The evidence has been clear for a long time in the case of the Progressive Conservative Party. The Tories have always expressed themselves very harshly on the subject. It is necessary to recall the War of 1914, or to bring up the names of Borden, Meighen and Bennett? We do not think so. It is sufficient to review rapidly the attitude of the Conservatives since the beginning of the present war.

The Liberals have acted with less candor. They have been forced by their pledges to disguise their attitude, but this camouflage has not succeeded in hiding their true policy. They have acted as imperialistically as the Progressive Conservatives. For twenty years they have not stopped proclaiming that Conservative Party policy meant participation in imperialistic wars and putting overseas conscription into force. It was not to be so with the Liberal Party. The war of 1939 broke out. The Liberals have done exactly as the Conservatives did in 1914.

For the next 25 years the Liberals will be unable to brandish the spectre of conscription and participation in imperialistic wars to extort the support of Canadian voters. The present war has made it evident to those who do not wish to close their eyes willingly that there is no difference between the two old parties. There is no ground for expecting a purely Canadian policy from either of them in this respect.

The present war, further, has revealed that French-Canadians make a serious mistake in affiliating themselves with political parties which refuse to accept their point of view on broad principles of Canadian policy. It is ridiculous to look for our leaders among the English-Canadians, around whom we have built an unlimited confidence, and who do not adopt our opinions. However, that is what we

have done. Dividing ourselves between two parties dominated by English-Canadians who do not think as we do in either domestic or foreign policy, we are inevitably duped. When English-Canadian or imperialistic interests demand it, English Liberals and Conservatives unite against French-Canadians of their respective parties.

Is that not what we have just witnessed in the Canadian Parliament? On the question of overseas conscription, English Liberals and Conservatives have made common cause to obtain the immediate dispatch of conscripts to Europe. French Liberals complain that they have been deceived. They are the authors of their own defeat. They should not blame the English-Canadians so much as themselves.

The English-Canadians constitute a majority in the country. In ordinary times they are politically divided. But when they wish to obtain something, they form a common front. There is a lesson for us there. We constitute a minority in the federal field—a minority sufficiently numerous and important to undertake our own defence. We should not entrust it to English-Canadians. Would one blindly abandon the direction of his own affairs to another? No. A minority ought not to act other than as individuals. It ought not to consider itself as eternally a minority whose affairs are administered by a board of people having interests and views opposed to the interests and views of this minority.

However, how may the lessons of the present war be utilized? We judge the sincerity of people by their actions. The party spirit is still so strong that one could persuade oneself to adhere to a party whose policy is diametrically opposed to the interests of our people. Those who manifest such illogicalness claim to be our leaders. Their machinations and intrigues show that they still place the party before all. That is their affair. But it is certain that at the next general election the people will not allow themselves to be deceived. They desire men of principle and character. After having been deluded in the end, they will certainly separate the wheat from the tares.

GAZETTE, MONTREAL, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1944.

A MATTER OF REASON, CONSCIENCE AND FACT.

"Those men in the fighting lines are fighting our battles, for us and at our behest, and their lives must be guarded in every way that is dependent upon action that can be taken from here."

It was in these words that the issue before the House of Commons—an issue so tangled by political manoeuvring and so clouded by counsels of expedience—was brought back to the simple but urgent reality that it is. It is a matter of lives—of lives which are now being risked for us and which must be guarded by us in whatever way is possible. These words were spoken in a speech delivered yesterday in the House of Commons by Hon. Louis St. Laurent, Minister of Justice. They were part of a speech marked by a truly judicial clarity—a speech in which the fundamental was sorted out from the irrelevant, and the issue was presented clearly before Parliament and before the nation.

It was not that Mr. St. Laurent disregarded the intricate background of the problem. He took this fully into account. But he refused to allow secondary issues to become confused with the one issue which is primary. "Much feeling has been stirred up over the issues now before the House," he says. Everyone has his own view as to how and why this has come about. But the fact is that a grave and real situation has come into existence and has to be dealt with. "The all important fact," he points out, "is that the reinforcements will be neither insufficient nor delayed."

He declares the matter to be self-evident that the reinforcement need is now to be met in time only by sending fit men who are already trained, and that the only reserves of such men in Canada are to be found in the Home Defence Army. He himself hopes that the system of voluntary enlistment among the draftees may yet prove successful, but considers the order-in-council essential because on the matter of reinforcements "no chances could be taken." If compulsion is needed, it must be used.

And he presents and analyzes the alternatives to using the draftees. The first of these is that of letting the Canadian Army go into battle without adequate reinforcement pools in England. This alternative he considers unacceptable as it would place an excessive and undeserved strain upon the morale of the fighting men. And a man who must face the enemy with lowered morale is an easier target for the enemy's weapons. In short, lowered morale means raised casualties. "Now, that consideration was ... of great weight," he says, "one which each one of us had to face in his own conscience."

Ottawa Vote Eases Strain

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1944

A NATION'S HEALTH IS A NATION'S WEALTH

ADEQUATE REINFORCEMENTS PLEDGED

THE reinforcement debate has ended in the House of Commons and the Government has been sustained on the motion of confidence. This had been a foregone conclusion ever since the leading figures in the controversy stated their views in the House—indeed, the result was probably determined when the Government changed its policy and decided to send draftees overseas as reinforcements. That was the issue on which the House was called together. The moment the Government decided, in response to the public will, to send draftees overseas, at that moment the country was satisfied that the purpose of its outcry had been fulfilled.

An analysis of the vote on the main motion and the amendments will be found elsewhere in this paper. The division, in general, was along party lines except for the French-Canadian Members and a few Liberal bolters from other parts of the country. It was to be expected that the majority of French-Canadian Members would vote against the principle of conscription without necessarily voting against the Government on the main motion. A formula for allowing them to do that was found in the amendment of Joseph Jean, and as a result only thirty Quebec Members voted against the Government on the all-important motion.

What is interesting and illuminating as defining French-Canadian attitudes is the position taken by the French-Canadian Ministers. All of them voted for the Government on the main motion and none voted for the

anti-conscription amendment. There is reflected here Quebec's general acceptance of a situation which, while not wholly to its liking, was taken to be inevitable. Had the French-Canadian Ministers resigned, as many expected them to do, when the Government changed its enlistment policy, there might have sprung up in this Province a type of opposition vastly different from what has already appeared. As it is, Quebec has been given responsible leadership and the people have responded admirably to their appeals for obedience to the law.

The Government is now pledged to keep the Canadian Army overseas fully reinforced, whatever may be the luck of battle. That was what the people wanted and what they have obtained. As time goes on the fruits of this policy will appear. The people will be vigilant to see that not again shall our overseas situation degenerate to the point where public outcry is needed to remedy it. This vote in the House is not to be read as a political victory or a political defeat; it was a victory for the popular will, expressed democratically and responded to democratically.

WANT TO TRAVEL? DON'T!

EACH war year about this time there has been an urgent appeal from the authorities against unnecessary travel during the holiday season. Even in what normally are slack seasons, public carriers are overloaded by pleasure seekers. And during the Christmas and New Year period, life becomes just one tremendous nightmare for the transportation industry.

If you have been thinking of taking a trip, think a little more. Remember these things: From December 22nd to January 4th, practically every service man and woman in Canada will be moving in some direction on special five-day leave; a great movement of home defence troops is under way; hundreds of veterans of the European fronts are expected home on long service leave; hundreds of other veterans will be returning under hospitalization or routine transfers; movement of munitions is being increased to meet the heavy expenditure on the Western Front; drafts of reinforcements, already coast-bound, probably are being increased from day to day under the new Government policy.

The railways are a part of the machinery of war. Early today Premier King warned that the war situation is "more serious than could be imagined." Don't sabotage that machine by needless travel.

Premier's Triumph Acclaimed

Majority of 73 Surprise to Many

The text of Premier King's speech closing the debate on the Government's confidence motion, and the various votes taken will be found on page four.

OTTAWA, Dec. 8.—(Star Special by Staff Correspondent)—The thumping majority accorded the Dominion Government in the House of Commons early this morning is regarded as probably productive of great stabilization in the Cabinet, in Parliament, and in the country.

That the King Government would be sustained there had been no doubt. That despite some 27 defections from its Quebec following it should still come through with a majority of 73 was astonishing to most people.

This was possible because the Government was supported not only by so great a bulk of Liberals but by the C.C.F. and the Social Credit parties intact and the several independents.

Vote Favored "Effort"

The Progressive Conservatives voted against the amendment which called for aiding the Government "in maintaining a vigorous war effort." The word "policy" relating to the war effort had been eliminated by the C.C.F. That made it easier for them to vote for the Government. Progressive Conservatives were suspicious of its implications and took no chances in the matter of maintaining "a vigorous war effort."

As members started to get away from the Capital today the general view was that the two weeks session, hectic in spots, has served a good purpose.

All October the Cabinet situation was really disturbed. Outside agitation came to be large. After the Ralston resignation and the exchange of correspondence it came to be more or less clamorous. Mr. King called Parliament. Extraordinary freedom was displayed in telling of what had gone on before the Ralston resignation and of what later had brought about a change of policy.

What It Means

The effective result of this morning's vote in the House is that it is a vote of confidence by three of the Parliamentary parties, less some Liberal dissenters, in the Government going ahead with vigor. The war situation being of the gravity the Prime Minister described, vigor will be necessary. Liberals are very happy over what has happened and declare that the situation in his Government and in his party being what it was, only under Mr. King could the Government have emerged as it did. For the Prime Minister they consider it to be the "greatest triumph in his whole career", as it has been described.

The majority was such as to suggest that even without the support of the ex-Minister of National Defence the result would have been different only in degree.

In Parliament

(Debates of the Senate — December 6 1944)

Hon. J. A. Calder (Prog. Cons. Saltcoats, Sask.): . . . It was that accumulation of public opinion, expressed as I never saw it expressed in this country before, that finally forced the Government to change its policy within twenty-four hours.

Hon. J. H. King (Government Leader in the Senate): Oh, no, no.

Mr. Calder: No what?

Mr. King: The Government policy was declared in 1942. That policy was to go into effect if certain things did happen.

Mr. Calder: On the 22nd day of November, the Prime Minister stood in his place elsewhere and declared that he was in favor of the voluntary system.

Mr. King: Yes.

Mr. Calder: He declared that he believed the voluntary system would succeed, that he was not in favor of the conscription, that he never was in favor of conscription and would not enforce it.

Mr. King: Unless it was necessary.

Mr. Calder: Until it was necessary.

Mr. King: That was declared in 1942.

Hon. J. Murdock (Liberal, Parkdale): Wise men change their minds, and fools never.

Mr. Calder: I quite agree that wise men change their minds. I say we had in force a policy whereby a Canadian defence force was conscripted. That was extended by Order in Council so that members of this force could be used in certain limited areas outside of Canada. On November 22 that — no more and no less — was the Government's policy. Now, what did Colonel Ralston stand for on that day? He stood for the extension of the application of the National Resources Mobilization Act to service in Europe. Why did he resign? It was because the Government refused to accept his—

Hon. R. B. Horner (Prog. Cons. Saskatchewan North): Recommendations.

Mr. Calder: His recommendation. That is why Colonel Ralston resigned because the Government would not budge from the policy it had in force.

Mr. King: Until—

Mr. Calder: Well, now, pardon me.

Mr. King: Continue: — until the Government ascertained that these would not go voluntarily.

Mr. Calder: Until the necessary pressure was brought on the Government that forced it to do what it did not want to do.

Mr. King: Have it your way, if you wish, but that is not the fact. The fact speaks for itself.



THE ARMY'S TWO SIZES

U.S. 18-year-olds Go to Front As Replacement Need Increases

Washington, December 7.—(AP)—Eighteen-year-old soldiers are now being sent to the battle fronts because of "urgent military requirements," the United States Army disclosed today.

The Under-Secretary of War, Robert Patterson, said at a news conference that the army has departed from its policy of not sending men under 19 years overseas for infantry or armored force duty. He gave these reasons.

The tempo of operations has been stepped up greatly.

The bulk of the army is in action, and accordingly, the need for replacements has increased.

The supply of replacements from the pool of men 19 and over has decreased because the percentage of inductees in that age group has fallen off.

His discussion of the use of 18-year-olds came shortly after he had reported in a weekly war review that United States Army casualties since the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor now total 474,898. Referring to the unprecedented scale of battle on the Western Front, Mr. Patterson said:

"We are suffering severe casualties and are facing the grim prospect of more to come.

"The enemy, however, is suffering even more."

To some extent, the effectiveness

lost through casualties are replaced by the return to duty of wounded men. Of 268,099 army men wounded since the United States entered the war, 126,440 have gone back to duty. This does not mean that all of them were able to return to the firing front. A great many are used only behind the lines or within the United States.

The Army casualty total, covering reports made through November 22, was an increase of 13,840 in one week. The figure covers casualties on all fronts but by far the largest number, presumably, were on the Western Front.

The Navy total now stands at 77,120, giving an overall figure for all services—the Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard—of 552,018.

Mr. Patterson said that how long the present policy for use of 18 year olds continues "depends entirely on the course of the war."

He explained that in general a man is about 18 years and eight months old by the time he sees combat because the average period of training after induction at 18 years is about eight months.

"No individual is permitted to combat until adequate individual tests and physical examinations have confirmed the state of his training and his fitness for the hardships of battle," he said.

Some See Dissolution

Some Progressive Conservatives profess to believe that with the majority he has rolled up in the House the Prime Minister might dissolve Parliament and bring on an election. By what reasoning the surmise could be justified is not clear in view of Mr. King's repeated declarations against an election when the war is at an acute stage. He says that it is graver right now than the public imagine. He has repeated, nevertheless, that beyond the middle of April he has "no idea" of asking an extension of his term.

Members of Parliament and Senators will get their travelling expenses and probably a per diem indemnity for the time they were away.

Not having been voted by the House it can come out of the war appropriation and be revoked.

Both Houses have now adjourned until January 31, when, presumably the session will be prorogued. It does not follow that the new session will open the next day as has been usual. No decision about that has been reached.

HOUSE SUPPORTS REVISED CONFIDENCE

Graydon Says Liberals and C.C.F. Near Cheek-to-Cheek on Policies

Ottawa, December 7.—Gordon Graydon, Progressive Conservative House leader, said tonight in the closing stages of the debate on the government's confidence motion in the Commons that there had been a gradual rapprochement and elimination of differences between the Liberal and C.C.F. parties.

Earlier M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, said that a Progressive Conservative amendment to the government motion was not in line with the attitude indicated by Mr. Graydon in a speech when the special sitting opened on November 22.

Mr. Graydon said the amendment finally presented, and defeated in the House this afternoon, was on "all fours" with the one he had announced in general terms he would move when the special sitting opened.

Mr. Graydon said Mr. Coldwell had been "pretty bitter to us this session" and "his tone and his words have contained more bitterness than we can afford to indulge in at this time." He did not propose to reply in kind.

Mr. Coldwell tonight moved an amendment to the government confidence motion which asked that the House declare it would support the government in maintaining its policy of a vigorous war effort.

Mr. Coldwell moved that mention of "policy" should be eliminated and that the House simply be asked to declare it supported a vigorous war effort.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King said he was prepared to accept the amendment.

Mr. Graydon said the amendment as now before the House

showed the position of the government and the C.C.F. For some time there had been a gradual rapprochement and elimination of differences between the Liberal party and the C.C.F. Party.

In 1942, he said, the Progressive Conservatives moved for additional measures to bring about complete mobilization of wealth, material resources and manpower, but the C.C.F. voted against that.

"The government party and the C.C.F. party have finally got in the same bed and under the same sheets at the same time," said Mr. Graydon.

Mr. Coldwell and some colleagues were overseas recently and brought back reports that reinforcements were "all right." About the same time former Defence Minister Ralston was there and came back to report the contrary.

"Here is this great party (C.C.F.) to my left," he said, "trying to oppose the government and moving an amendment while the Prime Minister immediately holds out his hands and catches the ball and says, 'It is mine too!'"

By moving the amendment he did Mr. Coldwell stood indicted before the public for admitting that the government had maintained "a vigorous war effort."

Even with a mechanical majority Mr. King had to call Parliament together not to get Progressive Conservatives and C.C.F. members to vote confidence but "to bring the Liberal party together."

"We have not confidence in the Prime Minister nor have the people of Canada confidence in the Prime Minister," said Mr. Graydon. "So we can not accept this amendment because it is tantamount to a government amendment moved through the lips of Mr. Coldwell."

The C.C.F. leader rose to object and Mr. Graydon said he did not mean to say Mr. Coldwell had conspired with the Prime Minister. The two were so close they did not need to conspire.

Stanley Knowles (C.C.F., Winnipeg North Centre), following Mr. Graydon, said the C.C.F. had felt that the government's confidence motion was not a fair one for members to vote on after more than two weeks debate.

His party had attempted to introduce amendments to make clear what members were voting for.

He said P. J. A. Cardin (L., Richelieu-Vercheres), was correct when he said earlier that the C.C.F.'s last amendment made such a change that the main motion was nothing more than a pious resolution in which the House agreed to support the government in carrying out a vigorous war effort.

The main motion, through the amendment, no longer called for a vote of confidence in the government. The C.C.F. was not prepared to vote confidence in the government's policies. This objection was removed through the amendment.

"Seems to me that the Progressive Conservative party is just plain sore," said Mr. Knowles. The Progressive Conservatives had hoped that out of the issue they would have been given a talking point across the country. They probably felt they now were losing some of the advantages they expected to gather out of the crisis. Mr. Knowles said he took second place to no one when it came to dislike of Liberal government policies. He would do all he could to defeat the Liberal government in the next election.

"I am sick and tired of the myth that there is only one man fit to lead the government of this country," said Mr. Knowles.

He believed Mr. Coldwell was the only man who could now properly head the government of the country. Mr. Graydon need not fear any union between the C.C.F. and the Liberals, he said.

Play-by-Play in House

(By The Canadian Press.)

Here is a play-by-play account, in chronological order, of what happened in the Commons yesterday and early today:

By a 168 to 43 vote the Commons defeated an anti-conscription amendment submitted by Joseph Jean (L., Montreal Mercier) to the government's confidence motion.

A Progressive Conservative all-out conscription amendment was defeated 170 to 44.

Speaker Glen ruled out of order a C.C.F. amendment. On an appeal his ruling was upheld 176 to 20.

A Social Credit amendment was ruled out of order and the Speaker's ruling supported 165 to 33.

An amendment proposed by Philippe Picard (L., Bellechasse) was ruled out of order.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King accepted a C.C.F. amendment striking out reference to government policy from the main motion.

Gordon Graydon, Progressive Conservative House leader, said the C.C.F. amendment indicated a close relationship between the Liberal and C.C.F. parties.

Stanley Knowles (C.C.F., Winnipeg North Centre), denied the suggestion of a coalition.

The House supported the C.C.F. amendment 141 to 70.

Mr. King, closing the debate, spoke of serious possibilities as an outcome of the war and criticized the stand taken by the Progressive Conservative members in the debate.

The amended government motion was carried 143 to 70.

The Commons adjourned to January 31, 1945.

CE MOTION, 143 TO 70

ANTIS LOSE HEAVILY

Premier Accepts Coldwell Revision of Original Motion

HOUSE RISES TO JAN. 31

4 Quebecers Support Jean Motion; 5 Liberals Back Conservative Amendment

BY F. C. MEARS

(Gazette Resident Correspondent)
Ottawa, December 8.—(Friday)—Crisis number three in the six-week conscription struggle was surmounted by the government when at 1.15 this morning the House gave it a 2 to 1 support of its war effort.

"God Save the King," sung lustily by members who were really wearied by over two weeks of animated debate, closed this special session which began in a cabinet crisis and was largely occupied with discussing a motion to approve the adoption of limited conscription.

Then when Prime Minister King rose to thank the House for the generous support it offered the administration he was given an ovation by his followers. But when Gordon Graydon, opposition leader, asked if when the House met again on January 31 the government would proceed with sessional business the Prime Minister declined to commit himself, replying it would depend entirely upon circumstances.

The vote on the main motion, which began at one o'clock this morning, was 143 for and 70 against. Those opposing the motion were the 32 Progressive Conservatives, and 34 Liberals, of whom 30 were French-speaking and most of them from Quebec province. Supporting the motion were 125 Liberals, eight C.C.F. and eight Social Credit members, also Mrs. Nielsen and Fred Rose, of Montreal.

OPPOSING VOTE

Following are the names of those who besides the Progressive Conservatives, opposed the government in the final vote:

Philippe Plead (L., Bellechasse); Capt. Leonard Tremblay (L., Dorchester); A. W. Neil (Ind. Comox-Alberni); Hector Authier (L., Chateauguay); Lt. Col. Hugues Lapointe (L., Lotbiniere); H. E. Brunelle (L., Champlain); Liguori Lacombe (Canadian, Laval-Two Mountains);

Frederic Dorion (Ind., Charlevoix-Saguenay); J. S. Roy (Ind., Gaspé); Maxime Raymond (B.P. Beauharnois - Laprairie); Emmanuel d'Amjou (B.P. Rimouski); Wilfrid Lacroix (Ind., L., Quebec-Montmorency);

Armand Choquette (B.P. Stanstead); Charles E. Parent (Ind. L., Quebec West and South); J. F. Pouliot (Ind. L., Temiscouata); Maurice Bourget (Ind. L., Lévis); J. E. A. Dubuc (L., Chicoutimi); Hon. P. J. A. Carlin (L., Richelieu-Verchères); Maurice Lalonde (L., La Belle); Harry Leader (L., Portage LaPrairie);

Azellus Denls (L., Montreal St. Denis); Sarto Fournier (L., Montreal Maisonneuve-Rosemount); Martine Rheaume (L., St. Johns-Iberville-Napierville); Lucien Dubois (L., Nicolet-Yamaska); Maj. Armand Sylvestre (L., Lake St. John-Roberval);

E. O. Bertrand (L., Prescott); W. R. McDonald (L., Pontiac); Joseph Blanchette (L., Compton); J. A. Crete (L., St. Maurice-LaPêche); Raymond Eudes (L., Montreal Hochelaga); Lt.-Col. Maurice Halle (L., Brome-Missisquoi);

Armand Choquette (L., Chateauguay); J. A. Bonier (L., Montreal St. Henry); J. L. K. LeFlamme (L., Montmagny-L'Isle); J. E. Ferron (L., Berthier-Maskinonge); Joseph Lafontaine (L., Megantic-Frontenac); Robert Ryan (L., Three Rivers); and J. H. Leclerc (L., Shefford).

QUEBEC KING SUPPORTERS

Following are the names of the Quebec members and cabinet ministers who supported the government:

Works Minister Fournier; Justice Minister St. Laurent; Rodolph LeMinistre (L., Wright); Joseph Thauvette (L., Wright);

(L., Vaudreuil-Soulange); Fisheries Minister Bertrand; War Services Minister LaPêche; Health Minister Claxton;

C. E. Ferland (L., Joliette-LaSaguenay-Montcalm); Vincent Dupuis (L., Chambly-Rouville); Joseph Jean (L., Montreal Mercier); Elphège Marier (L., Montreal Jacques Cartier); Dr. Gaspard Fautoux (L., Montreal St. Mary's); D. E. Black (L., Chateauguay-Huntingdon);

T. P. Healy (L., Montreal St. Ann's); Douglas Abbott (L., Montreal St. Antoine-Westmount); J. A. McGibbon (L., Argenteuil); J. A. Lapointe (L., Matapédia-Matane); F. P. Whitman (L., Montreal Mount Royal); P. E. Cole (L., Montreal Verdun); and Fred Rose (Lab. Prog., Montreal Cartier).

This final division of the special session was closely matched in result by one a little earlier in the evening when an amendment of M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, the purpose of which was to make it clear those who voted for the confidence motion were not endorsing government policies, was promptly accepted by the Prime Minister, but as Quebec members said they wanted to have a chance to vote against it a division was called. It was carried by a vote of 141 for and 70 against. Those opposing it were the Progressive - Conservatives and 38 others, most of them from Quebec and almost identical with those who opposed the main motion.

LACKS POLICIES SUPPORT

This final vote was on a motion of confidence in the government, or rather undertaking to aid the government in prosecuting a vigorous war effort, but the Coldwell amendment, accepted by the Prime Minister, deleted from the motion reference to government policies, and while the vote on the Coldwell motion was necessitated by a demand of Quebec members the House on the final division voted on the same motion, which was the government motion as amended.

Mr. King, speaking on the main motion just before one o'clock this morning, made a strong appeal for a solid support of this motion to hearten the fighting forces overseas and at the same time to show the enemy Canada's Parliament was united in its determination to back the troops overseas. He also gave a dark picture of the present war situation.

"Anything that supports our fighting men will hasten the triumphant end of the fighting in Europe," said the Prime Minister. "Anything that may serve to delay the decision may bring consequences so grave we cannot imagine them."

Turning his verbal guns on the opposition chief, Gordon Graydon, the Prime Minister said Mr. Graydon's remarks had almost exclusively to do with party matters. "He sought to have this House to believe," said Mr. King with heat, "there was some pact between the C.C.F. and Liberal parties to defeat the Tory party. The Tory party is defeated now, beyond any shadow of doubt."

Then Mr. Coldwell was thanked for moving an amendment, the aim of which was to clarify the aim and meaning of the government confidence motion, but the Prime Minister declared he had already insisted in his remarks in the House that the government was not asking the House to endorse its policies but simply asking generous support to conduct the war effort. "A vigorous policy," he said, "can be maintained only with the good support of this House."

SERIOUS SITUATION

Mr. King warned the House that the war situation in Europe today was serious. "It has taken on a seriousness that few if any of us can hardly imagine," he said. "I doubt if members of this House can even begin to imagine what the war is like at this moment. So we cannot afford to show any lack of unity at this time."

People in other countries, both enemy and liberated, were watching this Parliament, said Mr. King. They were watching to see if Canada or any other member of the family of United Nations was growing weary of the war. "No succor can come to the enemy," he said, "more than a revelation of a lack of united support of the war effort." He again thanked Mr. Coldwell for his amendment, and his efforts to make possible a more united House on the final vote. "I am profoundly sorry," he fairly added, "that I cannot thank the leader of the opposition."

The final day of the special session was crowded and tense morning and evening. The session began at eleven o'clock Thursday and with three sittings ended at 1.30 Friday morning. Many members who had made reservations for departure from Capital Thursday night had cancel these at the last moment.

Galleries were crowded, throughout the proceedings of two weeks Gen. A. G. L. McNau-ton, new Defence Minister, occupied a seat in the distinguished visitors gallery. Tonight, on the final division, Col. J. L. Ralston, former Defence Minister, was given prolonged applause from Liberals as he voted for the government's confidence motion. Then, some out-looked and others out of French-speaking members who voted with the government.

There were many divisions, a there were sub-amendments, a carded or ruled out by the Speaker. Three sub-amendments ruled out of order before the final day was reached. One of these moved by the C.C.F. group, one the Social Credit and one by L. Picard (Bellechasse). Then beginning late Thursday afternoon divisions came fast. A Social Credit amendment was ruled out but challenge of the Speaker's ruling brought a division and his ruling was sustained. The main Opposition amendment was defeated; another amendment by L. P. Picard ruled without a challenge of the Speaker's ruling; the Coldwell amendment was carried; and final the main government motion was approved and the special session ended.

SIXTY SPEECHES

About 60 speeches were delivered in the two-week debate, although there were not many days on which there was uninterrupted discussion for the first day the legislators met was occupied with Premier King reading the correspondence between him and Col. Ralston, who had been forced to resign.

There followed two open sittings when Gen. McNau-ton was questioned by members, then a secret sitting last an entire day.

In a desperate effort to finish the job this morning Mr. King rose just before eleven o'clock and moved that the House do not adjourn at that time, the regular adjournment hour, so the members settled back

in their seats impatiently waiting an end to the debating.

Forty-one members of the House from Quebec province, including five English-speaking legislators, and a French-speaking member from the neighboring province of New Brunswick (Aurel Legiv Kent), and one from Ontario, E. Bertrand (Prescott), voted against conscription in the first of the series of divisions of this afternoon.

Shortly afterwards the Progressive Conservative amendment was voted on and was defeated by a vote of 170 to 44, with five Liberal members supporting the Graydon motion.

Those who voted against the sub-amendment moved by Joseph Jean (Mercier-Montreal) and seconded by Gaspard Fautoux (St. Mary-Montreal) totalled 168, and included the remainder of the Liberals, the C.C.F. group, the Social Credit members, Mrs. Nielsen of Saskatchewan, Fred Rose of Cartier, Montreal, and four other Quebec members: Liguori Lacombe (Laval-Two Mountains); J. S. Roy (Gaspé); Frederic Dorion (Charlevoix-Saguenay); and Wilfrid Lacroix (Quebec-Montmorency).

Voting on the two amendments followed a series of short speeches from Herve Brunelle (L., Champlain); J. S. Roy (Ind., Gaspé); Wilfrid Lacroix (Ind., Quebec-Montmorency); Raymond Eudes (L., Montreal Hochelaga); George Fulford (L., Brockville); E. E. Perley (P.C., Qu'Appelle); King Hazen (P.C., Saint John-Albert); Sarto Fournier (L., Montreal Maisonneuve); Joseph Lafontaine (L., Megantic-Frontenac); and Dr. T. V. Grant (L., Kings).

The defections from the Liberal ranks on the anti-conscription side, in addition to those who crossed the floor earlier this session numbered 40, of whom 38 were from Quebec, one from Ontario and one from New Brunswick.

The Ontario bolter was E. O. Bertrand (L., Prescott) and the New Brunswicker, to leave was A. D. Kiger (L., Kent). Both represent French-speaking constituencies.

On the anti-conscription amendment, which proposed by Joseph Jean (L., Montreal-Mercier), the only Quebec Liberals to vote with the government were four cabinet ministers, Justice Minister St. Laurent, Fisheries Minister Bertrand, War Services Minister LaPêche and Welfare Minister Claxton; one French-speaking member, Dr. R. Leduc, of Wright, and two English-speaking members, Douglas Abbott, of St. Antoine-Westmount, Montreal, and F. P. Whitman, of Mount Royal.

French-speaking members from other provinces, generally voted with the government and against the anti-conscription amendment.

Montreal Island Vote On 5 House Divisions

(Gazette Staff Correspondent.)

Ottawa, December 7. — How members of Parliament elected from Montreal constituencies voted on the anti-conscription sub-amendment proposed by Joseph Jean, Liberal, Mercier.

In favor: Raymond Eudes (Montreal); Sarto Fournier (Maisonneuve-Rosemount); Joseph Jean (Montreal St. Ann's); St. Ann's; J. A. Bonnier, St. Denis; J. A. Bonnier, St. Henry; Gaspard Fautoux, St. Mary; P. E. Cole, Verdun.

Against the amendment: Fred Rose, Cartier; Hon. Ernest Bertrand, Laurier; Fred Whitman, Mount Royal; Hon. L. R. LaPêche, Outremont; D. C. Abbott, St. Antoine-Westmount; Hon. J. S. Lawrence, St. George; Hon. Elphège Marier, Jacques Cartier.

On the opposition's main amendment calling for all-out conscription all the Montreal members registered their dissent.

On the third division of the afternoon which upheld the Speaker's ruling that the C.C.F. amendment was out of order, the Montreal members once more voiced their support of the ruling.

On the fourth division, on which the C.C.F. amendment to the main motion was rejected, the Montreal members voted as follows:

In favor: Fred Rose, Cartier; Elphège Marier, Jacques Cartier; Ernest Bertrand, Laurier; Joseph Jean, Mount Royal; Fred Whitman, Mount Royal; Hon. L. R. LaPêche, Outremont; T. P. Healy, St. Ann's; D. C. Abbott, St. Antoine-Westmount; Hon. J. S. Lawrence, St. George; Gaspard Fautoux, St. Mary; P. E. Cole, Verdun.

Against: Raymond Eudes, Hochelaga; Sarto Fournier, Maisonneuve-Rosemount; A. Denis, St. Denis; J. A. Bonnier, St. Henry.

How Montreal members voted on the final division:

For the motion to aid the Government in maintaining a vigorous war effort: Fred Rose, Cartier; Elphège Marier, Jacques Cartier; Hon. Ernest Bertrand, Laurier; Joseph Jean, Mount Royal; Fred Whitman, Mount Royal; Hon. L. R. LaPêche, Outremont; T. P. Healy, St. Ann's; D. C. Abbott, St. Antoine-Westmount; Hon. Brooke Claxton, St. Lawrence-St. George; Gaspard Fautoux, St. Mary; P. E. Cole, Verdun.

Against the motion Raymond Eudes, Hochelaga; Sarto Fournier, Maisonneuve-Rosemount; A. Denis, St. Denis; J. A. Bonnier, St. Henry.

Another feature of this division which came yesterday afternoon was that Public Works Minister Alphonse Fournier, who was frequently reported to have tendered his resignation of his cabinet post in protest against the conscription order, remained out of the chamber while voting on the Jean motion which was being held but came in immediately after to vote against the main opposition amendment.

The 43 members who voted for the sub-amendment moved by Joseph Jean (Mercier-Montreal) and seconded by Gaspard Fauteux (St. Mary-Montreal) are as follows: J. E. A. Dubuc (Chicoutimi); Hon. P. J. A. Cardin; Maurice Lalonde (Lalonde); Joseph Thauvette (Vaudreuil-Soulanges); C. E. Ferland (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm); Vincent Dupuis (Chambly-Rouville); Sarto Fournier (Maison-neuve-Rosemount); A. Denis (St. Denis); M. Rheume (St. John's-Berville-Naperville); Joseph Jean (Mercier); J. A. Geste (St. Mary); Gaspard Fauteux (St. Mary); J. E. Ferron (Berthier-Maskinonge); Lucien Dubois (Nicolet); Armand Sylvestre (Lake St. John-Roberval); Donald Black (Chateauguay-Huntingdon); E. O. Bertrand (Prescott, Ont.); Wallace McDonald (Pontiac); Joseph Blachette (Compton); T. P. Healy (St. Ann); R. Eudes (Hochelaga); Aurel Leger (Kent, N.B.); Joseph Lafontaine (Mégantic-Frontenac); Robert Ryan (Three Rivers); J. L. Laflamme (Montmagny); J. W. McGibbon (Argenteuil); J. A. Bonnier (St. Henri); Armand Cloutier (Drummond-Arthabaska); J. H. Leclerc (Shefford); H. E. Brunelle (Champlain); A. J. Lapointe (Metapedia-Matane); Hugues Lapointe (Lotbinière); L. D. Tremblay (Dorchester); Hector Authier (Chapleau); L. P. Ricard (Bellechasse);

P. E. Cote (Verdun); Maxime Raymond (Beauharnois-Laprairie); Emmanuel d'Amjou (Rimouski); J. A. Chouette (Stanstead); Charles Parent (Quebec West and South); J. F. Pouliot (Témiscouata); and Maurice Bourget (Levis).

GRAYDON AMENDMENT.

Divisions came fast once the speech blockade was broken. As soon as the result of the division on the Jean motion was announced by the Speaker the main amendment of the opposition moved by their leader, Gordon Graydon, was called. Even though Maxime Raymond jumped to his feet in an effort to get in a new sub-amendment, the Speaker ruled he was too late and the vote was called.

The opposition's main amendment calling for complete application of conscription or its extension to all theatres of war was upset by a vote of 179 against and 44 for the motion. This division, too, badly tangled party lines for Mr. Graydon's motion was supported by the 22 Progressive Conservatives and also by five Liberals and seven Social Credit members.

Liberals voting for the opposition amendment were: A. W. Neill (Independent Lib. Comox-Alberni); Harry Leader (Portage la Prairie, Man.); Filt.-Lt. James Sinclair (North Vancouver); R. W. Gladstone (South Wellington); and George Cruikshank (Fraser Valley, B.C.). While more than half the Social Credit members supported this motion their leader, John Blackmore, and Victor Quelch (Acadia, Alta.), voted with the government against the Graydon motion.

Then just before the dinner recess Stanley Knowles, C.C.F. member from Winnipeg, rose to move another main amendment. It was, in effect, the same motion made on November 27 by the C.C.F. leader, M. J. Coldwell, but which was then ruled out of order. This time, Mr. Knowles contended the motion as a main amendment was in order. It not only called for extension of conscription to all theatres of war but also called for the conscription of wealth and other material resources.

But the Knowles amendment was doomed, for the Speaker ruled it was out of order, this time because the first part of it dealt with conscription, a question, he said, which had already been disposed of in two motions. C.C.F. members, including Mr. Coldwell, protested against this interpretation of the rules. Mr. Coldwell said such a narrow and rigid interpretation made it impossible for the smaller groups to fully state their views to the House.

The Speaker, however, insisted the motion was out of order. The C.C.F. members appealed from the ruling and the House divided on the motion as to whether the Speaker's ruling should be upheld. In the voting the ten C.C.F. members won the support of their next-door Social Credit rivals, the result of the vote being 176 for and 20 against. Then followed adjournment for the dinner recess.

WAR EFFORT PLAYED

A vigorous attack on the government's conduct of the war effort and, in particular, of its timorous military manpower policy came to night from E. G. Hansell, an aggressive spokesman of the Social Credit party, and later a new main amendment to the government's confidence motion was moved by one of his colleagues, Charles Johnston.

Previously the House listened to Mrs. Dorise Nielsen, who designates herself the Unity party, but who teams up in House party matters with Fred Rose, Labor-Progressive member from Montreal. Mrs. Nielsen was free with her denunciations of almost everybody sitting opposite the government, but took care to say generous things about the new Defence Minister, Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton. "The man who built up the Canadian Army overseas will not let it down now," she declared amid Liberal applause.

But the speech from this lady member brought a hot reply from Mr. Hansell who wanted to know where the Communists were in Britain when that country was fighting Hitler with its back to the wall three years ago. Then Mr. Hansell turned his verbal guns on the government and charged that the administration had played politics too often during the war. He scored the Prime Minister for his hasty dissolution of Parliament in 1940 and said that a similarly flimsy pretext brought the plebiscite in 1942.

The Social Credit amendment simply calls upon the government to wage a vigorous war effort without regard to the cost in human or material resources, and its supporters urged that the government pay less heed to the possible political consequences of its steps.

Charles Johnston, in moving the Social Credit amendment, said it would permit members who desired to support the government "in a clear and unmistakable position" to know where they stood. "But we are not in favor of supporting the government in all its policies," said Mr. Johnston, after pointing out that his amendment strongly favored sending all the necessary reinforcements overseas.

"We do not think we should be compelled," said Mr. Johnston, "to vote for a two-barrelled resolution when you do not know which trigger the Prime Minister is going to pull, though you can depend upon it he will pull the one which suits him."

The Social Credit amendment was ruled out of order by the Speaker in that it really carried an approval and a disapproval of government policy. John Blackmore, Social Credit leader, warmly protested against the ruling and appealed from it. The House divided and the Speaker's ruling was upheld by a vote of 33 against and 165 for, the C.C.F. members supporting their neighbors, the Social Credit group and there was help also from some Progressive Conservative members.

PICARD HAS AMENDMENT.

A sixth amendment to the government's motion of confidence was proposed by Philippe Picard (L., Bellechasse), supported by Walter Tucker (L., Rosthern). Speaker Glen ruled it out of order.

It would have made the motion read to the effect that the House would aid the government "in a policy of maintaining an efficient war effort but does not approve of compulsory service overseas."

Previously Mr. Picard and Mr. Tucker had a similar amendment ruled out of order. So were amendments proposed by the C.C.F. and Social Credit parties.

Mr. Tucker said the new amendment was to be distinguished from Mr. Jean's amendment in that it proceeded on the basis that the voluntary system had not broken down whereas Mr. Jean's amendment was based on the Progressive Conservative contention that that system had broken down.

Speaker Glen ruled the two amendments were the same in substance and he could not permit another vote on the same question.

Parliament Relaxes After Session

OTTAWA, Dec. 6.—(Star Special By Staff Correspondent) — This capital city gullest down, at the week-end, after two full months of varied excitement. First, it was under the cover of Cabinet secrecy. Afterwards, it was more open when agitation had full sway. This surge of public opinion, whatever may have been behind it, brought about, early in the fall, an urge for something more than volunteering.

This was greatly accentuated when, on his return from overseas, the former Minister of National Defence, Hon. J. L. Ralston reported that he had discovered the need for provision for early reinforcements of the troops. He went to find out about it and he did.

It was Col. Ralston's report to that effect which gave rise to the extraordinary sittings of the Cabinet and to the six prolonged sittings and to the six prolonged sittings. The effect of them has been revealed with an exceptional candor, enlarging greatly the precedents in such circumstances.

When the Cabinet, even after Col. Ralston left, was more or less at sixes and sevens, Premier King hit upon a democratic device of calling and consulting Parliament. To do that, it was difficult to take exception. The result of doing so does not detract from his record of political astuteness. The very day that Commons met, there was a report from Defence Minister McNaughton that the voluntary system was not adequate, under the circumstances which had developed, whereupon, several ministers insisted on resort to the draft system. The Cabinet solidarity, save for Air Minister Power's resignation was maintained. Mr. King held on.

In the meantime, the House has met and discussed the question from all angles. There was no responsible idea at any time that the Government was likely to be defeated.

Added to Majority

Had Col. Ralston yielded to importunities to come out against Mr. King's Government, its majority would have been less. When he supported it, he contributed to the majority of 73 which it rolled up and which was beyond expectations. There had been an idea that the C.C.F. party at the end would vote no confidence. But, when its own amendment, for the widest meaning of conscription, financial and material resources as well as manpower, was ruled out, this party came around to the idea of supporting the Government, if the word "policy" were omitted from the approval of the war effort. It seems that, to some of such policies, the C.C.F. took exception. The Social Credit Party never raised such a point.

The upshot therefore, was the vote of confidence in the Government by a majority of 73 after allowing for 27 Liberal defections. It had regular Liberal, C.C.F., Social Credit and Independent support and "got by" with exceptional ease. What does all this come down to? The following points are suggested by way of answer: (1) The assurance that the draftees to the number of 16,000 to start with, will go overseas as reinforcements.

(2) The assurance that there will be no immediate dissolution of Parliament and a general election.

(3) The expectation that Parliament will have its regular session this winter though not necessarily starting on February 1 the day after this session is to be prorogued.

(4) The prospect of a general election in the early summer unless, when the Parliamentary term expires, the war situation be of almost gravity.

(5) The improbability, at this stage, of developing the idea of a Union Party along similar lines to that of 1917.

Mr. King's political opponents who are very numerous, are inclined to admit that from crises, or situations of lesser magnitude, his powers of successful emergence are rather exceptional.

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8.

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But concentration of the voter on mere automatic attendance at the polls and casting of his ballot as an end in itself can hardly be a complete fulfillment of his civic duty. It is not a real discharge of his ultimate responsibility for the conduct of civic affairs. Nor is it an adequate participation in the democratic function of selecting the best available personnel to administer municipal business for the citizens.

It applies virtually all elections civic or otherwise, and certainly no less than usual to the election here on Monday. The electors in each ward must face the challenge in picking their candidates, in the city as a whole in voting for the council, and on the referendum concerning prolongation of the council's term of office from two to three years. However, chief interests and significance undoubtedly centres on the referendum and the referendum, and it is to the decision in these respects that citizens are being asked to give the most earnest and thoughtful consideration.

Knowing this in mind, citizens have good cause to believe they will vote on Monday to weigh carefully all the demands which will, or should, affect their choice. This should not be difficult. Both of the candidates have previously served several terms as mayor and have otherwise been in the public eye. Their records, their capacities as public servants, the success or otherwise of their private business careers, and the principal basis of their appeals for popular support, are well and widely known.

considerations should properly be taken into account. Voters inevitably must ponder extraneous to civic affairs injected into the campaign. It is obvious that the real effect of such issues cannot be affected one way or another by the outcome of the civic election. It is therefore less necessary to consider the probable effect of a result related to such issues. Its significance will be determined by the official position of the city administration and reflect whether a bid for office can successfully be based on non-municipal, political considerations.

The division of the House of Commons ye

Mr. Jean's amendment was to the Government's confidence motion which asked that the House declare that it will support the Government in maintaining a "vigorous war effort." The Jean amendment would have added to the motion the words: "By using to the best advantage the General Service personnel in Canada and the volunteers overseas without resorting to conscription for service overseas." The amendment required the members to say whether or not they were opposed to conscription. Forty-three said that they were. One hundred and sixty-eight said that they were not.

But this development, highly unpleasant and disadvantageous as it would have been for the Government and these members alike, has been neatly avoided. Though the Government has at least adopted the conscription principle, it remains possible for some members to be at once Liberals and anti-conscriptionists. Undoubtedly the Government hopes that the voters in their constituencies may avail themselves of the same ingenious provision.

But there was one empty place. Hon. Alphonse Fournier, with or without leave, was absent. Apparently he has the courage neither of his own nor of other peoples' convictions.

For Montrealers there is a particular interest in the stand taken by the local members. On the Island there are sixteen seats, one of which is now vacant. All fifteen sitting members voted

With the exception of Mr. Marier, who like Mr. Fournier, promptly appeared just as soon as the division had been taken. The final total is eight votes for the Jean anti-conscriptionist amendment and six against it. Those opposing the amendment were Hon. Brooke Claxton, Liberal member for St. Lawrence-St. George; Maj.-Gen. Hon. L. R. LaFleche, Liberal member for Outremont; Hon. Ernest Bertrand, Liberal member for Laurier; Douglas Charles Abbott, Liberal member for St. Antoine-Westmount; Fred P. Whitman, Liberal member for Mount Royal; Fred Rose, Labor-Progressive member for Cartier. Supporting the amendment were these Liberals: Joseph Jean, member for St. Denis; J. A. Bonnier, member for St. Henry; Sarto Fournier, member for Malsonneuve-Rosemount; Dr. Gaspard Fautoux, member for St. Mary; Raymond Eudes, member for Hochelaga; P. E. Cote, member for Verdun. Completing this list of the amendment's supporters was T. P. Healy, of St. Ann, who saw fit to act as he did though his constituency had voted "yes" in the plebiscite.

The House has voted on the Government's final vague motion. As was long anticipated, the motion was easily carried. The

The dominant impression left by all that has happened in these turbulent weeks is that it ought not to have happened at all. Had the Government only seen its duty, and, having seen it, done it, then would there have been no cause for the people to take the decision so largely out of the Government's hands. All the stress and strain, all the confusion and delay would have been avoided had the issue found its natural, responsible settlement.

Then the Prime Minister, after having seen no need to summon Parliament before January, summoned Parliament for mid-November. And no Parliament ever met under a greater concentration of public interest, nor a greater insistence of public demand. We have seen how the sheer weight of the public will gradually bent the will of the Government. We have seen the pitiful devices with which the Government resisted and the essential bad grace with which it yielded. We have heard the Prime Minister say that he could not understand why we should have to make this additional sacrifice just when the war seemed to be going so well. We have heard Col. Ralston disclose before the House the evasion and misrepresentation which the Prime Minister had used to conceal the reinforcement need and to cling to office. We have seen how the Prime Minister heard all this condemnation and did not explain, did not apologize, did not resign. We have seen shoals of members' words pass into Hansard. We have seen how the anti-conscriptionist amendment served to show the strength of the House's conscriptionist feeling. We have now seen the session close, with the moribund Government remaining in office under a motion whose general terms were yet more general by an accepted alteration at the last moment.

If there has been any victory in all these disturbed weeks it has been a victory, not for the Government which tried to evade the issue, but for the people who forced the Government to face it. And the victory is theirs because they have had a keener conscience, a bigger heart, a firmer courage. If they have had to lead their leaders, they have had the determination to do so. If they have had to force the hand which held back the reinforcements, they have had the indignation to do so. If they have had to turn aside these threats to the integrity of the nation's war effort, they have had the honor to do so.

But just because the difficulties in this struggle have been so great, none will fail to recognize that vigilance will be the only guarantee of this victory. The public insistence must not weaken; the public watchfulness must not weary; the public's confidence must never fail. This victory has brought its obligations. For it can be completed only when victory has been made final on the field of battle.

This image shows a blank, aged, cream-colored page, likely an endpaper or flyleaf of a book. The paper has a slightly textured appearance with some minor discoloration and a small dark stain near the bottom center. The page is set against a dark background.

The Gazette

FOUNDED JUNE 3, 1778

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No matter what external changes may take place in the lives of men, no matter how men may preach the necessity of changing their sentiments and their acts, the lives of men will not change, unless a change takes place in their thoughts.—Leo Tolstoy.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9.

WHERE THE SHORTAGE LIES.

There has been a tendency on the part of the Government to minimize the reinforcement shortage by emphasizing that it exists only in the infantry. This method appeared very characteristically in Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King's radio speech on November 8. He then put the situation in these words:

"The problem of reinforcements concerns only one of the three armed services. The Navy and the Air Force have no such problem. . . . I now come to the question: Is there an adequate reserve of reinforcements for the Army? In the opinion of military authorities, no difficulty is likely to arise except in relation to reinforcements to the infantry."

But the situation might have been put somewhat differently. The Prime Minister might have said: "The reinforcement shortage exists in that one of the three armed services whose role has become the most vital and whose casualties will now be the highest."

Perhaps it has been somewhat difficult for Canadians to grasp fully the importance of the infantry's role, since the Canadian infantry has, by force of circumstances, not seen action as a whole until the recent stages of the war. It had been Canada's Navy and Canada's Air Force which had been seeing the principal service against the enemy and paying the principal price in the war's preliminary and preparatory stages. The crisis—the period of decision—has called the infantry into action. Though the Navy and the Air Force will still play their important parts, it is the infantry alone which can exact a conclusion. It was not without a certain vivid truth that Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, in other days, described the Canadian Army as a "dagger pointed at the heart of Berlin." And of that dagger the point was, and will remain, the infantry.

To the infantry belongs the exacting and costly tasks of final action. It is the infantrymen who must drive the enemy from pillboxes and from snipers' nests. It is they who must creep close to walls and pick their steps through shattered buildings as they force the enemy out of "captured" villages and cities. It is they who must advance over ground the enemy has mined and set with traps. It is always they who must make the ultimate assault and come face to face with the enemy. And it is they who must wait under fire to meet and break up the enemy's counterattacks.

It is inevitably among these men who form the front line that the casualties must be heaviest. And these casualties will mount rapidly under the added hazards of winter campaigning. For the infantryman has now to fight without shelter. In this respect he is often at a disadvantage compared with his predecessor of the last war. For the fighting of 1914-18 tended to develop massive and intricate earthworks, with all the solidity and shelter of stabilized fighting lines. Now the infantryman finds little to protect him from the wind and the rain and the cold. When he has the opportunity to dig in for shelter, it is generally into a slit trench, with nothing more over his head than a few branches cut from a tree and with no drainage for the gathering water. Such conditions, produced by the modern war of movement, will superimpose numberless losses from sickness to the wounds from battle-fire.

"The man who will win the war" is the title of a despatch wired from the fighting-front by The New York Times' correspondent, Drew Middleton. It is his tribute to the infantryman. He describes how weather, terrain and the German system of defence have combined to diminish the use and effect of air and armored power. "Now it is up to the man alone," he says, "walking forward on his two feet, with no other protection than his helmet." He is convinced that we have entered the grimmest phase of the war, in which battles will be fought with far more men and with far greater cost than any since the vast struggles of 1918. "This is not a time for victory parties," he cautions, "but one for prayer."

But for plain proof of just what Canadian infantrymen have been sacrificing and just what they will need, we have only to turn to the casualty totals for the months of August and September, issued a few days ago by the War-time Information Board. This proof is very striking. In these two months (one a month of summer and the other the earliest month of autumn) the Canadian Army suffered 17,783 casualties, as against 1,201 by the Royal Canadian Air Force and 281 by the Royal Canadian Navy.

It is quite true, as the Prime Minister says, that "the problem of reinforcements concerns only one of the three armed services." But the reinforcement problem will be placed in its accurate perspective and given its actual urgency only if we are reminded of two things of which the Prime Minister did not see fit to remind us. In the first place, we must not fail to remember that it is upon this one branch of the three armed services that the true weight of war-winning has now fallen, and, secondly, that it may well have to pay for its vital achievements at a rate many times as high as that of the other two services combined.

It is with this nearer understanding that we must estimate the reinforcement problem which we have had to face and will still have to face. The shortage of reinforcements has not occurred merely in one corner of our war effort, as the Government has tended to imply. It has occurred at its very heart and core.

Partial Conscription Not Enough Says Mess, Revealing Why He Quit

(Special to The Gazette.)

Ottawa, December 21. — Brig. James Mess disclosed here today his reasons for leaving his Army post as deputy adjutant-general and director of recruiting, on which he has kept silent since he resigned November 27.

He declared his position had been made "entirely untenable" by the government's policy of limited overseas conscription, designed to meet only immediate, pressing needs for infantry reinforcements. Such a policy, he said, failed to assure a sustained, adequate flow of trained soldiers to the battle fronts as long as they may be required, and left an open question as to whether future shortages would be promptly met.

In an interview setting forth his position, Brig. Mess recorded his conviction that the only effective way in which the continuing needs overseas could be fully met was by immediate and unlimited conscription, with complete equality of service. Holding such views, he felt he could not honorably continue to serve as recruiting director in implied support of a partial conscription policy which he did not endorse.

Nor he added, could he continue under the circumstances to solicit the public response and assistance he had received to date, on the understanding that the reserve of draftees would be made subject to overseas service should the voluntary system fail to meet all demands.

Brig. Mess relinquished his duties as director of recruiting shortly after tendering his resignation near-

ly a month ago, but continued yesterday to serve as deputy adjutant-general. In this capacity he had charge of auxiliary special services and Army conscription, as well as recruiting, and he remained to assist in the transfer of these responsibilities to his successor.

Today thus marked his release from the duties, and the restraints of Army service, which he felt free to discuss publicly what impelled him to resign.

The brigadier revealed that at the time he was prevailed upon to take charge of the Army's re-recruiting effort, over two years ago, he held strong views in favor of full conscription to distinguish between overseas home defence service. But the Army's paramount need of clear unlikelihood of adoption of unlimited conscription at the time and the apparent ability of the voluntary system to meet the stated requirements of active service recruits.

The quotas for the men needed from time to time had been met and more than met the recruiting effort. Brig. Mess reported, up until the time he unexpectedly found himself in the crisis created by the recent recruitment crisis because of the falling off in the volume of recruiting occurred early in the year, an intensified campaign raised an average of 4,500 recruits.

Against an estimated ment of 4,000, he said.

The success of the campaign depended largely, he emphasized, on the active cooperation enlisted from the press, as well as the Canadian Legion, and some 5,000 men in civilian advisory recruiting committees. The brigadier estimated that 75 per cent. of the recruits, as well as many newspaper editors and officials involved, held conscription views similar to his own. But he felt, as he did, that under the existing government and its complete reliance on a voluntary system for overseas listments, they must support call for volunteers to meet Army's need and give the voluntary system the fullest possible trial until it proved inadequate policy was changed.

Brig. Mess noted that the months tour of Britain, Italy, Belgium on which he embarked September 18 was designed to obtain first-hand information and background for recruitment needs, though also concerned with the interests of the other Army, of which he had charge, would have been incumbent upon him to report on his return. He found overseas as it affected recruiting, but by the time he was able to get back to Canada on November 18 the crisis had become public knowledge.

MEANS NOT SUFFICIENT

"The means adopted to meet the crisis are sufficient only to cover the present and immediate future need for additional reinforcements," said Brig. Mess. "Nothing should be allowed to stand in the way of getting overseas as quickly and efficiently as possible the 160,000 draftees made subject to overseas service. But I am convinced that neither despatch of the 160,000, nor subsequent continuance of the voluntary system give the necessary assurance that future needs, beyond the resources of the voluntary system, will promptly and unquestionably be met as they arise. And I believe they probably will arise."

"To my mind, the policy of limited conscription falls far short of what both our fighting men overseas and those who have assisted the Army's recruiting effort have every right to expect."

"It has been repeatedly stated from the highest quarters that the supreme effort to defeat the enemy in Europe must be made from now on, that the German forces must be met unceasingly and with unrelenting force. To do this not only requires the maximum volume of men and materiel, but the unshakable confidence of our forces in battle that they are being backed up, that the limit and will be supported, the reserves they require whenever the need comes."

"The troops overseas and the superior officers should not be subjected to the temptation to look over their shoulders, literally or metaphorically, to see whether they can rely on reinforcements being provided if required. They should be able to go into battle knowing that whatever they need, they will get. The basis for such confidence and assurance is the policy of unlimited conscription."

There has not been provided by the present policy of partial conscription plus continuance of voluntary recruiting.

"For me to have continued to direct recruiting on the voluntary basis would have been a violation of the commitments I repeatedly made to the public, the press, and those associated with me in the recruiting effort, that should the needs of the Army in full, I would so indicate and promptly recommend that the system be supplanted by complete and unconditional conscription. The time for this has come, and the step I was pledged to recommend, and which I always understood would be taken, has not been taken."

"In view of my convictions and my commitments, I could not carry on in support of the system now laid down, nor could I approach the public with a renewed appeal for the unstinted cooperation I received in the past. There was no alternative for me but to resign."

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The God who made the butterfly's wing has a right to ask that we shall do small things in a great way.
—Dr. F. W. Norwood.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22.

WHY BRIGADIER MESS RESIGNED.

More than usual public attention was focussed on the resignation, nearly a month ago, of Brigadier James Mess as deputy adjutant-general of the Army, in which capacity his chief duty was to direct Army recruiting. Coming about a week after his return from a two-month tour of war zones overseas, and only a few days after the Government's compromise conscription move to meet the reinforcement crisis, the resignation was conjectured to reflect the brigadier's dissatisfaction with government policy.

This assumption is emphatically confirmed by the public declaration of his reasons for resigning which Brigadier Mess has now made, in an interview reported elsewhere in this issue of The Gazette. Having kept silent on the matter while still subject to the proprieties and restraints of Army service, he feels free to state his position now that he has wound up his duties and left his post. His clarification of his motives for leaving, and his appraisal of the reinforcement and recruiting situation, are of considerable public interest.

The brigadier makes it quite clear that he relinquished his task because he felt he could not consistently or confidently continue under the policy embracing limited conscription. He emphasizes that he and those whose cooperation he had enlisted had done their best to meet the Army's requirements for recruits through the voluntary system, and had succeeded up to the time that unexpectedly high infantry casualties led to the reinforcement crisis. He and 75 per cent of the 5,000 civilian recruiting advisers had from the start shared strong views favoring total conscription, he says. But they had carried on because the Army had to have men, because the stated requirements were being met by the voluntary system, and because this was the only system by which, under previous government policy, the men could be raised.

But this support had been given, he insists, on the distinct understanding that should the voluntary method fail to supply the Army's needs, the reserve of draftees at home would be promptly made available for overseas service through invocation of full, unlimited conscription. Brigadier Mess is firmly convinced that the time for this step has come, and that neither partial overseas conscription nor continuation of the voluntary system assures a sustained, adequate flow of reinforcements to the battlefronts until the war in Europe is won.

Making only 16,000 draftees subject to overseas service, he says, meets the immediate pressing need but fails to ensure that likely future shortages will be promptly met. Above all, he asserts, it fails to give to the fighting men overseas the necessary solid confidence that they can rely constantly on being backed up to the limit whatever need the tide of battle may produce.

Recent developments on the western front support his view that the only way Germany can be beaten quickly and decisively is to keep hammering her forces in the field without let-up, without giving them a chance to reorganize and convert retreat into offensive operations. This cannot be done with compromise or partial measures but, quite evidently, only with the full and possible resources of the Allied nations, including Canada.

The convictions set forth by Brigadier Mess in stating his position are not only of interest in shedding light on the reasons for his resignation, but are weighted with the experience and information he acquired during the three years he served as director of recruiting. They merit the serious consideration of government authorities and of the public.

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When troubles are few, dreams are few.—Chinese.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20.

NO MORE GOVERNMENT SILENCES.

Following the adjournment of the special session of Parliament on December 7, silence has re-enveloped the whole reinforcement situation. Within this period of silence, a serious crisis has developed on the western front. The public would be interested in learning to what extent the Government has carried out the first stage of the reinforcement policy to which it has pledged itself.

The Government's policy, as announced in the House of Commons by Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton on November 23, was to send 16,000 troops overseas, beyond and above the normal flow of volunteers. This policy involved the sending of 5,000 troops in December and 5,000 in January, with further instalments until the month of May. The month of December is now at its end. It would be reassuring to learn that the Government has faithfully and efficiently carried out the first stage of its announced policy. For though only the first stage, it is in great measure a trial and a test for the Government's commitments to the people and to the fighting men.

The importance of these shipments of reinforcements was stressed by Col. J. L. Ralston in the statement he issued on November 12. Indeed, he made it plain that in his opinion the first instalment should have been sent on November 1. But Gen. McNaughton, though using a somewhat delayed schedule, does not deny the justification of Col. Ralston's sense of urgency. In the House of Commons Col. Ralston asked Gen. McNaughton this question: "Now, then, without the 16,000 what would your position be? If you did not get the 16,000 in December, January and February would you be—shall I say—on the estimates, going into the red?" To this Gen. McNaughton replied: "I would say, far more than going into the red—quite deep."

Much too simple would be the assumption that all is well, because the government has not only promised to provide the necessary number of reinforcements but has provided itself with the powers necessary to make sure that no deficiencies will arise. These promises and this power are in themselves admirable, but we have yet to receive the assurance that they have been conscientiously demonstrated in action.

Such assurance is necessary to establish public confidence for two reasons. In the first place, the record of the Government on reinforcements is not such as to create a background of confidence. As recently as last October, Col. Ralston found that Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King was prepared to allow the ships to sail without their complements of reinforcements, and this despite the fact that reinforcements were urgently needed. Indeed, a more responsible policy was obviously forced upon the Government by that wave of public opinion which Mr. King described as an organized unrest.

In the second place, it is very necessary to consider that the Government, though it has provided itself with the powers to use compulsion in securing reinforcements, has appropriated these powers to itself with manifest reluctance and distaste. More than this, it has openly declared its wish and its intention to use these powers as slightly as possible.

Under these well-known circumstances, and with the war assuming a heightened severity, Gen. McNaughton owes it alike to the Canadian public and his own reputation to make a plain and unequivocal statement on the present state of the reinforcement situation. In the House of Commons on November 23, he declared: "I want to say, quite definitely, that all anxiety would be removed if we were able to find in December a total, above the numbers now arranged, of 5,000 infantry fully trained or in an advanced state of training, a similar number in January and a further 6,000 in the succeeding months."

It would establish a bond of confidence between the new Minister of National Defence and the people he serves if he were to state (if he is able to do so) that all anxiety has been removed as far as December is concerned. And this initial statement should be a precedent. The state of the reinforcement situation should be stated clearly on each of the succeeding months.

Nor should an unjustified use be made of appeals to military security. It is quite true, as Gen. McNaughton said on November 23, that what he publicly states "goes out to all the world." It is no less true, as he said on the same occasion, that anything which "would bring hazard to our troops in action and prejudice their further operations . . . is the last thing any of us here would wish to do."

But the question should be pressed: In what way would such monthly statements on reinforcements infringe military security? In fact, a monthly statement, revealing an eminently satisfactory reinforcement situation, could only discourage the enemy abroad and hearten the people at home. Nor could the effects upon the men serving in the Canadian Army be otherwise than salutary.

Yet it might be asked: What if the reinforcement situation should become unsatisfactory? Should Gen. McNaughton make a public announcement of that fact?

The answer to this, of course, is that, if Gen. McNaughton makes a determined and responsible use of the adequate immediate powers which have been given him, the reinforcement situation, at least for some time to come, should not be otherwise than satisfactory.

As it is, the Government and Gen. McNaughton can hardly expect that their silence will of itself be interpreted as an expression of responsible public service. Such a silence is all too likely to give rise to unfavorable parallels and unpleasant memories.

THE GENERAL MUST PLAY HIS ROLE.

Mr. Charles P. McTague, national chairman of the Progressive Conservative Party, has officially and forcefully spiked rumors to the effect that the party is considering withdrawing its candidate from the by-election in Grey North, where the candidate of the Liberal Party is Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton.

The rumors which he spiked are of unusual interest. For they seem to express wishful thinking carried out along purposeful lines. They suggest that Gen. McNaughton is a man so essential to the effective prosecution of the war that the Progressive Conservative Party was becoming hesitant in an unpatriotic intention of opposing him, and that they might decide to allow him an acclamation. The rumors suggested, too, that this withdrawal of the Progressive Conservative candidate might not take place immediately, but possibly at any time before the election took place; and in this way a shadow of doubt was cast over the Progressive Conservative intentions which would extend itself even to the eve of the election. Finally, these rumors repeated the very threat used by the Prime Minister himself in the last session of Parliament—the threat that his opponents had better not press him too far, or he would call a general election.

It is plain from Mr. McTague's words that none of these rumors has, or will have, any foundation in fact. "Gen. McNaughton has no chance of an acclamation in Grey North," he says. "I would not be a party to any such move."

It is no less plain from his words that he and his party do not share the belief that Gen. McNaughton is a figure which can be separated from politics—much less placed above them. No doubt Mr. McTague remembers, as many other Canadians remember, that in a time of crisis on the issue of providing adequate reinforcements to the Canadian Army overseas, Gen. McNaughton accepted the office of minister of national defence at the invitation of Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King, and he accepted that office on the grounds that he shared the policies of Mr. King as against those of Col. J. L. Ralston, who had been asked to resign. The change of policy which Gen. McNaughton announced abruptly on November 23 was not an individual action, but no more than a move made with the Government of which he had become a member.

It is a matter of history (as well as a matter of the Prime Minister's frank admission) that this change of policy came about under the pressure of an aroused public opinion, such as this country, in the Prime Minister's opinion, has never before known. It would be impossible for Gen. McNaughton to extricate himself, or for anyone else to extricate Gen. McNaughton from the Government with which he so readily associated himself. Nor will it be possible to present as the creation of Gen. McNaughton's initiative the policy which he and the Liberal Government were plainly compelled to adopt. Indeed, the most pertinent question and the most insistent doubt is whether Gen. McNaughton is the man who can, under these circumstances, operate this changed policy with the vigor and the determination which the needs demand.

There is that other note in the current rumors—the warning that opposition to Gen. McNaughton in Grey North may well provoke Prime Minister King into calling a general election. But this warning, which amounts to a political threat, is becoming illogical even according to Liberal reasoning. For in the natural course the present Parliament will end in a few months, with a general election as the next normal step. The only alternative is an extension of the life of Parliament by Parliament itself.

Prime Minister King himself has repeatedly declared that it is not his intention to adopt this alternative; indeed he made this declaration for the last time only in the last session. Consequently, according to Mr. King's own solemn declarations, a general election is going to be held in a few months time. Accepting Mr. King as his own authority, the outcome in Grey North could not have any notable effect upon that policy of holding a general election to which Mr. King is so plainly committed.

There is, indeed, no possibility—as there is no need—for making the by-election in Grey North non-political. So far from being a non-political figure, Gen. McNaughton is one of the most thoroughly political figures upon our present Canadian scene. It is a role which he has chosen for himself. It is one which he must now play. And it is a role which he will have to play, among other places, in Grey North.

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Genius is infinite painstaking.

—Longfellow.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17.

SHIFTING AN INTOLERABLE BURDEN.

It may almost be said that the Government and its apologists are conducting the Grey North election less upon the merits of Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton than upon the contention that a controversial and partisan by-election has been unpatriotically forced upon them while they are endeavoring to perform their duties in time of war. Consistent and concerted has been the effort to build up this impression and to drive home this accusation. Certainly the spectacle of a conscientious government hindered and distracted by narrow and insistent partisans might help to prevent the real issue in Grey North from becoming too inconveniently plain. Such, at least, is the hope that prompts this organized and vigorous strategy. Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King himself has sought to provide an added caution to the spirit of partisanship by his statement yesterday that Parliament, though it will meet on January 31, will take no action until the results from Grey North have been received, and will, presumably, act in accordance with these results.

But instead of asking why it is that Gen. McNaughton is being opposed, it would be more to the point to ask why Gen. McNaughton is running at all. What has caused this new minister of national defence to enter public life and seek election? The fact is, of course, that the dismissal of Col. J. L. Ralston brought Gen. McNaughton out of his mysterious retirement. But why was Col. Ralston dismissed?

The fact of history—and of very recent history—is that the reinforcement crisis is the cause and explanation of the present election. But there need have been no reinforcement crisis. Had the Government seen its responsibilities and shouldered them faithfully and fully there would have been no change in the administration of the defence department, no outcry of national indignation, no special session of Parliament, no by-election in Grey North.

But the Government, though it certainly saw its duty, withdrew from the performance of it. When the need for a change in its reinforcement policy had become imperative, and Col. Ralston recommended that change, the Government declined to act, allowed the troop ships to sail without their needed complements, and requested Col. Ralston's resignation from the Cabinet. It was this singular conduct in high places that evoked the cloud of national wrath and compelled Parliament to meet under its shadow. Compelled to give way before public demand, the Government decided to abandon its policy of maintaining a wholly voluntary reinforcement system.

It was at this point that Gen. McNaughton should have returned to his retirement. Having reached the conclusion that Col. Ralston had been right in his recommendation, the Government ought also to have reached the collateral conclusion that it had been wrong in requesting Col. Ralston's resignation. Indeed, Prime Minister King, in his radio address on November 8, had, with apparent emotion, expressed deep regret for the differences which had led to Col. Ralston's resignation, and stated that in this matter Col. Ralston had only "followed the dictates of his conscience in what he feels he owes to his pledged word." He went on to declare that "no man in Canada has given more selfless and devoted service to his country throughout the war."

Had Col. Ralston been requested a few weeks later to take up the reins which he had been so recently requested to relinquish to Gen. McNaughton, there would have been no breach of consistency; no crippling blow to public confidence; no by-election in Grey North.

Draftees Arrive in British Isles

OTTAWA, Jan. 20 — (C. P.) — Defence Minister

McNaughton announced today completion of troop movements which began Christmas and ended with debarkation in Britain of more than 8,300 Home Defence draftees "plus the full normal quota of reinforcements."

The Minister said a "high percentage" of absenteeism was reported during the movement of the various draftee units in Canada during the Christmas and New Year holidays with approximately 6,300 still unreported.

"Of 15,600 N.R.M.A. (draftees) warned for overseas service, 7,800 were at one time over-due or absent without leave, but 1,500 have since returned voluntarily or have been apprehended and of these 950 have rejoined their units during the last week," he said. "Approximately 6,300 are still unreported for various reasons, the majority being absent without leave but not deserters at this date."

It had been anticipated some of the men would take advantage of the pre-embarkation leave but the risk was accepted so there would be no discrimination.

As it is, the man who had recommended a change from the wholly voluntary system continues to be excluded from office. And the man who had succeeded him because he would have no change in the wholly voluntary system continues in office as the exponent of a policy he so recently and so ably attacked. More than this, the Government, having changed its defence ministers in mid-stream, finds itself under the necessity, and is placing Grey North under the necessity, of holding an election. What is far more painful to the Government is the necessity of presenting to the electors of Grey North a man who cannot shake from himself the undignified anomalies of his position and his sponsorship. Indeed, Gen. McNaughton stands in Grey North as an all too perfect representative of the intricate compromises and tenacious evasions of the Prime Minister who called him to office and who now presents him for election.

It is most certainly true that a grievous responsibility lies upon the shoulders of those who have made a by-election in Grey North necessary. No less grievous is the responsibility of those who have given it a partisan character. Nor should one fail to understand how anxious the Government is at this time to shift the weight of these responsibilities to others from its own bending shoulders. No one blames them acting as they do under their peculiarly unenviable circumstances. But neither will anyone wish to relieve them of those responsibilities for partisanship which they were once willing to assume and which they are now unwilling to carry.

Last November there was a painful sense of the Government and the people being at odds with each other, as the Government tried to conceal from the people a situation whose seriousness

McNaughton Challenged on Draftee Issue

Big Guns Enter Grey North Fight

ANNAN, Ont., Jan. 19—(C.P.) —W. Garfield Case, Progressive Conservative candidate in the Grey North by-election, February 5, last night asked Hon. A. G. L. McNaughton, Defence Minister, to reveal whether any home defence troops have yet been sent overseas.

Mr. Case asked that Gen. McNaughton, Liberal candidate, state whether it was true that home defence troops, who did not volunteer for overseas service before embarkation, were given more time to think it over.

Mr. Case said he wanted to know if one "zombie" or one man, drafted under the National Resources Mobilization Act, had yet been sent overseas.

If the draftees were given extra time to think the matter over, Premier Mackenzie King would be able to say to "Quebec during the next general election that not one man has been conscripted or sent overseas against his will," said Mr. Case.

Mr. Case said he also had some questions he would like Air Vice-Marshal A. E. Godfrey, C.C.F. candidate, to answer.

Godfrey Challenged

Air Marshal Godfrey "speaks on behalf of the Socialist party," said Mr. Case. "He should tell the people of one Socialist country which is not ruled by a one-party government."

Mr. Case said the statement Mr. King gave the press last Saturday reached the people of Northern Grey constituency in the form of a personal appeal from the Prime Minister to the electors. The statement, addressed to the electors, asked that partisan politics be laid aside and that Gen. McNaughton be elected so he could sponsor war measures in Parliament.

When the by-election was called "people on the street were questioned and a straw vote was taken," said Mr. Case. "I was amazed when prominent Liberals in this city told me yesterday that the Government had made a mistake in bringing Godfrey into this campaign. Surely this is a sham battle."

Gen. McNaughton was a man who was willing to carry out the "express will" of Premier King, "who found that he could not manipulate Ralston (former Defence Minister) any longer."

C.C.F. Denounced

The C.C.F. was not to be "trusted," said Mr. Case. "Last fall C. B. Jolliffe (Ontario C.C.F. leader) and M. J. Coldwell (C.C.F. Federal leader) said that this year there would be 100,000 unemployed in Canada. Their prophecies have proved wrong."

"The C.C.F. thrives on frightening the people, on trying to build up something to scare the people."

The Progressive Conservative party believed the future could be looked forward to with confidence but the main job at the moment was to win the war.

Mr. King has stated that it was necessary that Gen. McNaughton be in the Commons to sponsor his department's war measures. "This comes from a man who heads a Government which has passed more than 50,000 orders-in-council under the War Measures Act since the start of the war," said Mr. Case.

The Progressive Conservative party, by having a candidate in the by-election, was giving the Government a challenge which the party hoped would bring about a "total war effort."

Liberal Defeat

The Liberal party now realized Gen. McNaughton was facing sure defeat. Mr. King has said in his letter to electors that in calling the by-election he had hoped to avoid political controversy at a time when the war situation was so grave.

"Do you think he ever thought the war situation was grave?" asked Mr. Case. "I never knew a man more afraid of the people than the present Prime Minister."

Only one issue was at stake in the by-election and that was the Government man-power policy. Yet, Hon. Ian Mackenzie, Veterans' Minister, had come into the constituency and spoken of nothing but rehabilitation.

"He spoke while boys from his own constituency were roaming the streets of Ottawa trying to break down the red tape so that they might get their due as returned veterans," said Mr. Case.

Sqdn. Ldr. Allan Sherret, Progressive Conservative candidate in the Kenora-Rainy River riding for the Federal election, who spoke at the meeting said that Air Vice-Marshal Godfrey, after having been Inspector-general for the R.C.A.F., "should be able to point out many instances of waste and inefficiency which came to his notice." Instead, he said, Mr. Godfrey is trying to build a record for the C.C.F. in the promotion of a national war effort "when that party's only pronouncement in the early part of the war was to denounce the sending of beer to troops in North Africa."

Godfrey Speaks

OWEN SOUND, Jan. 19—(C.P.) —The truest indication of the strength of the C.C.F. in the Grey North by-election campaign was the "bitterness with which the old parties are attacking us," Air Vice-Marshal A. Earl Godfrey said at a campaign meeting.

"As a comparative newcomer to active politics, I must say I have been amazed by the amount of unscrupulous and obvious false propaganda about the C.C.F. which has been spread about by one of my opponents particularly,"

he said. Mr. Godfrey later told newspapermen he referred to W. Garfield Case, Progressive Conservative candidate.

"He must feel very sure that the C.C.F. has taken a commanding lead in this campaign when he feels it necessary to resort to such desperate tactics."

Referring to rehabilitation of people from the armed services, he said there must be satisfactory jobs paying decent wages, to all who were willing to work. This could only be achieved through the maintenance of full employment for all in Canada.

Jolliffe Heard

E. B. Jolliffe, Ontario leader of the C.C.F., said that if rumors were correct Premier King will call a general election before Feb. 5. "It only means he can't face the music in Grey North and must know his Government is going down to defeat," Mr. Jolliffe said. Mr. Godfrey was the only candidate who had put forward constructive proposals with respect to both the war effort and the post-war crisis.

"Liberal speakers have nothing to offer but apology for the policy of their Government," he said. "The Tory campaigners spend their time firing mud in all directions."

"I am delighted to know that John Bracken (Federal leader of the Progressive Conservative party) will visit Grey North. Mr. Coldwell (Federal C.C.F. leader) will be here next week. I wish Mr. King could come too. If only the electors could hear all three at once there would be no doubt as to the result."

Mackenzie Speech

THORNHURST, Ont., Jan. 19—(C.P.)—Hon. I. Mackenzie, Veterans Minister, told a political rally the Government did not know whether events within the next few weeks would require that another session of Parliament be held, but if another session is held Defence Minister McNaughton should have a seat in the Commons.

Canada needed the combined wisdom of all political parties to wage a successful war effort, Gen. McNaughton was an eminent soldier and scientist.

National issues were not at stake in the Feb. 5 Grey North by-election, he said. The people of Canada would have a chance to express their views on national issues in the forthcoming general election, which was being postponed as long as possible so that the minds of the people would not be turned from the war effort.

At the special session of Parliament, all parties had been asked to support the Government's vigorous war effort. The Progressive Conservatives had joined with the isolationists from Quebec in voting against the Government.

Home Defence Army Troops Reported A.W.L.

OTTAWA, Jan. 20—(C.P.)—Canada's irksome zombie problem flared into print today as censorship authorities permitted publication of a hitherto-secret directive confirming that a "very substantial" number of home defence troops is overdue from embarkation leave.

The directive, now made public because security considerations involved no longer exist, give no figures. But unofficial reports from across the Dominion indicated the number might be anywhere from 1,500 to 2,000. All are men destined for overseas under an order-in-council making a total of 16,000 draftees available for overseas duty.

Pending an official statement from Defence Headquarters, expected today, cross-country reports—they came from Quebec, Montreal, London, Ont., Calgary, Regina and Vancouver—gave this unofficial picture of the situation:

At Quebec headquarters of Military District No. 5, while denying published reports that Home Defence troops had "virtually taken possession" of Valcartier military camp, said in a statement last night that a "considerable" number of men were absent without leave at the time of departure from the camp. It added that "some" have since returned.

Reports Widespread

At London, Ont., it was reported that cases of men absent without leave from the Oxford Rifles, and the Dufferin and Halimand Rifles may total as many as 700.

A Calgary, it was said approximately 400 draftees from Alberta, scheduled to go overseas following five days' leave at Christmas and New Year's, failed to report to their district depot.

At Regina, more than 600 draftees were reported to have failed to report for duty after Christmas and New Year's leave in Saskatchewan, their home province.

And at Vancouver, Pacific command Headquarters issued a statement says that about 20 per cent of the British Columbia members of home defence units, stationed in British Columbia until last December when they were moved to eastern Canada, had failed to report for duty.

Permission to publish the censorship directive confirming the absence reports was given following the appearance of an editorial in Thursday's Toronto Globe and Mail which mentioned the directive and said a large number of troops was missing. 100 censorship officials then conferred with military authorities and it was agreed to permit publication of the reports.

Information Promised

At the time it was issued—newspapers received it the night of Dec. 31—the directive banned mention of "rumors of disorders and heavy absenteeism" and said security of troop movements was involved and that when they were completed the "fullest possible" information would be released.

Issuance of directive followed reports received by the Canadian Press of disturbances at Queen's Park Barracks at London, Ont., where more than 100 draftees, most of them from western Canada, were said to have scaled a six-foot fence following trouble of unsteady nature. Hundreds more of their comrades failed to report from leave.

The London disturbances were said to have included three days of minor disorders at the barracks, where property valued at \$100 was reported to have been destroyed. There were several incidents in the city, with fights and boisterous marches reported.

Included in the censorship directive was a 225-word "secret and confidential communication" from Defence Headquarters, from which 12 words were omitted at the request of the department upon publication last night.

Communication Quoted

This communication, part of the directive, said: "There is under way at the present moment a very heavy movement of reinforcements toward the East Coast (12 words omitted at request of National Defence Department)."

"It is of the highest importance that the enemy should be denied any information as to the program."

1,300 Absentees Are Sought In M.D. No. 4

MEMBERS of M.D. No. 4, Mont-

real companies of the Canadian Provost Corps, are said to be now engaged in trying to trace and return to their camps up to 1,300 troops from two district camps who are at present absent without leave, having overstayed their leave by some weeks, it was learned last night.

The camps affected are said to be Sorel and Joliette to which units were returned in early December from active service duties in other parts of the Dominion. Those who are absent are said to be all men enlisted under the National Resources Mobilization regulations, and who have been referred to by general service as "zombies."

Believed Deserters

While a small number of the men may have overstayed their leave for various reasons they consider justifiable, by far the overwhelming number are believed to be deserters from the army who have no intention of returning voluntarily.

Official information is unavailable as to the affected units, but it was announced at the time the units returned to Sorel and Joliette that they were respectively Le Regiment de Chateaugay and Les Fusiliers de Sherbrooke. What changes of units, if any, have been made in the past month or so, have not been disclosed.

No general service troops are affected, it is learned here. Farnham, an advanced training centre, with an overwhelming number of general service troops, has no unusual number of troops absent without leave as far as can be learned.

For General Service

When Le Regiment de Chateaugay was transferred to the Sorel former basic training centre last December, it was stated by an officer of M.D. No. 4, that probably 200 men had already signified their intention of volunteering for general service, as long as the unit as a whole was sent overseas, and that there was every hope of increasing the number to at least 500. No further information has been available about the unit's general service recruiting.

Various inducements have been held out to N.R.M.A. enlistments who volunteered to proceed on general service, including the promise they would retain their platoon identities and their prevailing N.C.O. and officer personnel. In some cases platoons were allowed to give themselves pseudonyms, one formation calling themselves "Les Loups."

Squads of the Provost Corps sent out to check up on men who have deserted their units are said to be having very indifferent results. The whereabouts of the large numbers of "missing" troops is reported to be a "mystery" to local headquarters.

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We ought to be today's men, not tomorrow's men! —Bacon.

MONTREAL, MONDAY, JANUARY 22.

A COLLAPSE IN MORALE.

The statement issued by Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, Minister of National Defence, discloses a situation among the Home Defence troops that is far worse even than what was suspected or feared. It is now a matter of official admission that of the 15,600 Home Defence troops advised that they were to be sent overseas, 7,800, or precisely one half, were at one time overdue or absent without leave. To the present time, only 1,500 of these have returned, or have been returned by police action. There are still 6,300, or 40 per cent., whose whereabouts are unknown.

In this widespread collapse of authority, involving camps across the country, much is involved. The war effort, which so many good Canadians have paid with their lives to make glorious, is now being publicly and internationally disgraced. More than this, the position of the men now fighting overseas is again placed in grave uncertainty. For these 15,600 Home Defence troops constitute the trained reinforcements which are essential for maintaining the overseas pools. Gen. McNaughton announces that "the special program arranged for use of N.R.M.A. personnel overseas is also progressing according to schedule." It is difficult to see how the program for the use of N.R.M.A. personnel overseas can be progressing according to schedule, when 40 per cent. of the trained men are not accounted for.

The conduct of the Home Defence troops has shown a flagrant disregard for the authority of the Government because the Government has failed to inspire in these troops a respect for its authority. An authority strong and determined is not violated in this manner. The men feel under a weak and wavering discipline because the will that directs it is so obviously hesitating. There is the conspicuous fact that the Government was driven into a conscription policy by the force of an irresistible public opinion, that it adopted this policy with an undignified haste; that it became a conscriptionist government under protest and with intricate compromise. When it now approaches the men and demands of them a prompt and unwavering response, its words fail to evoke respect and its orders fail to exact obedience.

To understand how deep lies this wide disregard for the Government, it must be borne in mind that these Home Defence men are not raw recruits, unused to army life or ignorant of the necessary consequences of insubordination. Most of them have been long in the service, some of them as long as two or three years. Indeed, before they were granted their leaves, they were solemnly warned of the consequences of not returning. So it is that these men know well what they do. When military discipline is broken by so large a number of men, so deliberately, and with such composure, it is the discipline, rather than the men, that has lost moral vitality.

If the Government has shown any determination towards these men in recent years it has consisted mainly in trying to break their spirit. The very act of creating such an army involved the creation of an invidious distinction and an anti-social mentality. But these reactions were steadily consolidated. The general recruiting campaigns consisted in great measure of exhortations to men as yet out of army service not to become as these men were. Even such campaigns for overseas enlistment as were conducted among the Home Defence troops themselves consisted often of efforts to humiliate them into a higher view of their responsibilities.

Such treatment as this could have, and has had, only one result. Gradually the men hardened under this abuse, and developed their own

Text of Statement

In connection with a press statement in a Quebec paper on Jan. 19, 1945, Headquarters authorities of Military District No. 5 wish to make the following statement:

1. Conditions at Valcartier military camp in Military District No. 5 are normal in all respects and present no disciplinary problems beyond minor cases encountered in any large camp.

2. The leaves granted over the holiday period were in accordance with policy as laid down and no concessions were made under pressure from the personnel.

3. There has been no case of a senior officer, or of any officer, either in Valcartier camp or in any part of Military District No. 5, being killed, manhandled or even molested.

4. All units scheduled to move from Valcartier camp have moved as scheduled, although a considerable number of men were absent without leave at the time of departure, some of whom have returned since that date.

5. On Dec. 16, 1944, the soldier, whilst resting in his hut, was wounded by the accidental discharge of a rifle from a second hut some hundreds of yards away. A court of inquiry disclosed all facts pertaining to this incident and established the accidental nature of it.

600 A.W.L. in Sask.

REGINA, Jan. 20—(C.P.)—More than 600 Home Defence Army troops, scheduled to go overseas after brief Christmas and New Year's leave at their homes in Saskatchewan, have failed to report for duty at their home province depot, it was learned last night.

The men, members of units formerly stationed on the Pacific coast, were en route to eastern Canada and were dropped off for leaves.

It was understood that of the first group of 1,100 given leave more than 400 are absent without leave.

Of the second group of 400 given leave, about 200 still are absent.

400 Out in Alberta

CALGARY, JAN. 20—(C.P.)—The Calgary Herald said in a front-page story today it had learned that approximately 400 Home Defence draftees from Alberta who were scheduled to return to camp following five days' leave at Christmas and New Year's failed to report to their district depot.

The paper said the men have been drifting back and reporting in small groups since New Year's day, but it is estimated that more than 100 are still at large.

Military District 13 officials said they were not in a position to make a statement on the matter. The paper added:

"Some of the men were given five days' leave and told to report on Christmas Eve in readiness to leave for mobilization centre in the east on Christmas Day. Others were given the same leave and told to report on New Year's Day."

A number of the men returning voluntarily are said to have resented having to report back just before one of the other of the holidays and took a "few days extra" to spend with their families.

Others are said to have had a strong disinclination to proceed overseas and were hopeful that, by the time they returned, their units would have left Canada.

20 Per Cent A.W.L. in B.C.

VANCOUVER, Jan. 20—(C.P.)—About 20 per cent of the British Columbia members of Home Defence Army units, stationed in this province until last December when they were moved to eastern Canada, have failed to report for duty, authorities at Pacific Command Headquarters announced last night.

British Columbia men in the regiments were given leave here and ordered to report to their camps at the expiration of their time. Officials were unable to state the actual number of absentees.

"All we know is that approximately 20 per cent of the men who were given leave here prior to their transfer are still A.W.L. About 80 per cent are known to have reported."

Major-Gen. George R. Pearkes, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Pacific Command, held a conference today to discuss the problem of absenteeism of Home Defence men in British Columbia. Attending the conference, besides Gen. Pearkes, will be: Hon. R. L. (Pat) Maitland, British Columbia Attorney-General; Commissioner Thomas S. Parsons of the British Columbia police; Superintendent C. K. Gray, Officer Commanding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in this province; and Chief Donald Mackay of the Vancouver police.

The absentees are all members of Infantry regiments sent from various points in B.C. following passage of an Order-in-Council last November making 10,000 members of the Home Defence Army available for overseas service.

Demonstrations Held

It was following the passage of this Order-in-Council that demonstrations were held at a number of military camps in this province. At Terrace, B.C., a number of parades were held through streets and demonstrations lasted for about three days.

It was following these disturbances that a district court martial at Terrace sentenced four soldiers at Terrace to one day in jail for offences against the Army Act. Names of the soldiers were not released.

Regiments Named

Ten Eastern Canada regiments were moved from this province during December.

They were: Oxford Rifles, moved from Nanaimo to Woodstock, Ont.; the Winnipeg Light Infantry, from Nanaimo to Winnipeg; the Prince of Wales Rangers, from Vernon; the Prince Edward Island Highlanders from Terrace; the Fusiliers de St. Laurent, from Terrace to some point in Quebec; the Fusiliers de Sherbrooke, from Nanaimo to some point in Quebec; the Midland Regiment, from Vernon to Midland, Ont.; the Saint John Fusiliers, from Nanaimo to New Brunswick; the Royal Rifles of Canada, from Vernon to Quebec City; and the King's Own Rifles of Canada from Nanaimo to somewhere in Ontario.

Army officials said that before the units left the west coast, members living here and in other western provinces were given leave as they headed eastward with instructions to report to their units from leave.

Men Not Deserters

The men are not to be classed as deserters, officials said, indicating that they have been absent only a short time. A soldier is not classed as a deserter until he has been away without leave for 21 days.

Officials pointed out that while a number of British Columbia men were members of the units in training in this province, there are no British Columbia Home Defence regiments now in training here. The last B.C. Home Defence regiment to leave was the Rocky Mountain Rangers which went to Eastern Canada last May and later was sent overseas as reinforcements after D-day.

G.S. Men Protest

TORONTO, Jan. 20—(C.P.)—The Globe and Mail in a newspaper story today said a number of General Service personnel now in Toronto with five years army service overseas to their credit are "vigorously protesting their expected imminent return to the battlefronts."

The paper said many of the men insisted that if they go overseas again it will be "manacled and under armed guard." They said what they believed to be their pre-embarkation medical examinations were "a joke."

The soldiers were some of the five-year service men permitted to leave the battlefronts before Christmas and returned to Canada for a 30-day leave. They claimed they were "receiving unfair treatment."

Twenty-nine men in one group told the Globe and Mail they thought five years' service was enough for one man, "especially when there are thousands of fit soldiers, both draftees and G.S., who have never left Canada."

Major complaint of the men interviewed by the paper was they have received no medical examination since 1939 and that "what passes for a medical today is a joke."

A spokesman at Military Headquarters said: "Proof that our doctors do more than sit at a desk and look at a man, comes in the fact that the cases of 25 per cent of the men home for Christmas leave have been referred to specialists."

The Globe and Mail quoted a number of men as saying they stood before a medical officer who did not examine them. One private was quoted as saying, "He [the medical officer] told me they had orders to raise everybody's category and send them back overseas."

The Army spokesman said the men had no way of knowing that the examination was their last before going overseas and added that they would not be sent overseas without a thorough examination. He said the men were still on overseas strength and were only on "30-day leave."

An estimate made by some of the soldiers involved claimed there were about 200 men who had declared their unwillingness to go overseas again, the story said.

insured operations in the Atlantic, the hazard to the Canadian ships, and any might enable his submarine would imperil thousands of Canadian lives. Furthermore, any breach of the part of Canada well, American

has been asked comment on various would enable the picture of the sailing plans. that there have been the Defence Department, the night that at the time of reports of dis-

at the moment a very number of men overdue from this force. This position is well foreseen and considered toward it, should it occur.

Deputy Stressed

This explanation is given to the lives of Canadian soldiers inherent in any publication of information or any other. as soon as the present have been completed, the Atlantic has been completed, the following information will be released.

The chief censors of publication are added: on the basis of this information from the Department of National Defence, the censors of publication will not be able to pass reports for immediate publication reports of an absent without leave or other reports of N.R.M.A. difficulties which are in any way connected with this movement and which they can count on the full operation of newspapers and radio stations until the period of leave is over. This action is taken for the single purpose of safeguarding the lives of men being transported overseas."

The Pacific Command statement on comment said that British Columbia men in Home Defence units had been given leave on the west coast and were ordered to report to their camps at the expiration of their time. It said that approximately 80 per cent of the men are known to have reported, leaving 20 per cent still A.W.L.

Conference Called

A conference of Pacific Command officials was to be held in Vancouver today to discuss the problem.

The Regina reports said the men missing there were members of units formerly stationed on the Pacific coast who were en route to eastern Canada and were dropped off for leaves.

It was understood that of the first group of 1,100 given leave more than 400 still are absent. Of the second group of 400 given leave, about 200 still are missing.

Several men have turned up at the Regina district depot of their own accord during the last 10 days while others have been found by the Provost Corps and Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The men approached by the army or R.C.M.P. did not offer resistance but adopted an attitude of "they can come and get me."

M.D. 5 Statement Issued

QUEBEC, Jan. 20—(C.P.)—Headquarters of Military District No. 5 (Quebec) in a statement last night said that conditions at Valcartier military camp were normal in all respects and presented no disciplinary problems beyond the minor cases "encountered in any large camp."

The statement was issued in connection with an article published yesterday in the Quebec Chronicle Telegraph which said men of the Home Defence Army have "virtually taken possession" of the camp and had not only refused to obey orders but had refused to allow officers to approach their quarters.

The Headquarters statement added that there has been no case of a senior officer or any other officer, either in Valcartier camp or in any part of Military District No. 5 being "killed, manhandled, or even molested."

The statement said the leaves granted over the holiday period were in accordance with policy as laid down and no concessions were made under pressure from personnel.

Man-Power Issue to Fore In North Grey

All Candidates Deal
With Problem Yesterday

OWEN SOUND, Ont., Jan. 23.—(C.P.)—The Federal Government's man-power policy stood out today as the main issue of the by-election in Grey North where Hon. A. G. L. McNaughton, Defence Minister, as Liberal candidate, seeks a seat in the Commons.

All candidates—the former Canadian Army commander and his C.C.F. and Progressive-Conservative opponents—made reference to man-power and reinforcements yesterday either in prepared statements or in speeches on the hustings.

Gen. McNaughton said in a statement prepared for publication in the Owen Sound Sun-Times he felt in a position to say "there is no need for public anxiety, currently or in the foreseeable future about the reinforcement situation" overseas. Two months ago he estimated it would be possible to send 10,000 Home Defence troops overseas before the end of January. With recent arrival of 8,300 Home Defence troops, it could safely be said that in both numbers and time-limit my November estimate has been something better than fulfilled.

McNaughton Speaks Tonight

Gen. McNaughton is expected to make further references to the reinforcement situation when he returns to the constituency from Ottawa tonight to address a meeting at nearby Shallow Lake.

Garfield Case, Progressive Conservative candidate, brought the re-inforcements question into a speech before a political rally at Meaford. Some 6,300 Home Defence troops failed to return from pre-embarkation leave because there was a "lack of courageous leadership" in the Government, said Mr. Case. Gen. McNaughton had entered the Government saying he supported the voluntary enlistment system. A few weeks later, Gen. McNaughton was carrying out the Government's decision to make some 16,000 Home Defence troops available for overseas service.

The Government's man-power program was aimed at appeasing Quebec, because the Government was anxious to win all of Quebec's 69 seats in the next general election.

Mr. Case said that the issue in the by-election was not who built Canada's Army. The issue was the reinforcement of troops overseas and Gen. McNaughton's administration of the Defence Department.

Answers Advertisement

He quoted from a Liberal organization advertisement which asked "Ever build an army, Mr. Case?" The advertisement said Gen. McNaughton built the "best army in the world. Mr. Case said he was ready to concede Gen. McNaughton built the "finest" army in the world, but after building it he "deserted it or at any rate left it high and dry."

Mr. Case, who tonight addresses a meeting at Thorbury, 35 miles east of here, said, if elected, he would bring to Parliament a message fresh from the people, a message demanding that men overseas get the help they needed, even if this meant the recall of Col. J. L. Ralston, former Defence Minister, who resigned last November when the Government

Partial Text of Prime Minister King's Message

OTTAWA, Jan. 23.—(C.P.)—Partial text of Premier Mackenzie King's message to electors of Grey North:

It would obviously be unwise to fix the date for the opening of the new session (of Parliament) until it is certain that the Minister of National Defence will have a seat in the House of Commons. If, as the Government had every right to expect, the by-election had not been contested, Gen. McNaughton's presence in the House of Commons would have been assured. A new session could have opened immediately after the prorogation of the present session.

Parliament will meet on Jan. 31 to bring to a close the session which began a year ago. A new session will not begin immediately.

Before deciding when a new session is to open, or indeed, whether it may be advisable to attempt to hold another session of the present Parliament, the Government feels it is necessary to give careful thought to the situation which is developing as a result of the by-election campaign.

Deplores Controversy

Controversy, on a nation-wide scale at home, and in every unit among the forces overseas, will be inseparable from a general election. Therefore, we have felt we should make every effort to postpone the holding of a general election so long as there was a possibility of the war ending, or of the decisive battles being fought, before the expiration of the parliamentary term.

It has been asked, why if the Government desires to avoid an election till the war is over, does the Government itself not take action to extend the life of Parliament? I have always felt that the right of the people, to elect their representatives in Parliament at least every five years, which right is secured to them by the Constitution, should not be taken from them without their consent.

Circumstances Reviewed

I mentioned (in speeches) some possible circumstances which might make a general election necessary while the war in Europe was still in progress.

The first of these circumstances was the limitation placed upon the life of Parliament by the Constitution. I pointed out that should the war continue on into 1945 it would be necessary to have a general election at some time in that year.

As a possibility which was ever-present, I spoke of "happenings and events at present completely beyond our ken, outside as well as within Canada, any one of which might make advisable or necessary a reconstitution of the Government or an immediate appeal to the people."

Significantly enough, as related to this possibility, I said "even within the Government itself, and the ranks of its supporters, for causes at the moment wholly unforeseen, differences of views on matters of policy might arise which it might be found impossible to reconcile. In such a situation, the only solution would be the verdict of the people themselves."

Such was the situation that led to the reassembling of Parliament in November last. It was a situation which did not arise until after more than five

years of war. Had the differences of view to which that situation gave rise not happily been recollected at the time, a general election would have been inevitable.

Two Possibilities Faced

I come now to two possibilities which the Government has had constantly to face in seeking to avoid a general election before the end of the war in Europe, or before the expiration of the parliamentary term, whichever might come first. To these possibilities, I made specific reference in my address of Sept. 27, 1943.

Of the first possibility, I said: "One thing no administration could afford to countenance would be to allow its own position in the confidence of the country to be undermined by unwarranted and unworthy party activities on the part of political opponents, while the administration itself was giving its undivided attention and devoting its whole energies to the prosecution of the war effort of the country."

Of the second possibility, I said: "Another such circumstance would be the kind and degree of obstruction with which the Government might come to be faced in Parliament from members of those parties and groups which compose the opposition."

Dissolution Only Alternative

I drew attention to the several parliamentary groups and to their tendency, in bidding for political support, to rival each other in criticizing the Administration. I then said that they could, if they desired, "so impede the progress of business in Parliament, or so misrepresent and distort Government policies, as to make it next to impossible for any government to carry on. Such a situation would be bad enough at any time. It would be an impossible situation for an Administration charged with the responsibility of governing at a time of war. An experience of the kind would leave the Government no alternative but a dissolution."

Each of the possibilities I have mentioned would seem to be contained in the situation as it is developing in the Grey North by-election.

No one can deny that in the present contest every effort is being made by the Progressive Conservatives and by the C.C.F. to undermine the position of the Government in the confidence of the country. The only purpose of the Government in opening the seat was to ensure the presence of the Minister of National Defence in the House of Commons during a brief session of Parliament to be held before a general election.

Activities Unworthy

That being the case "It can scarcely be denied that the activities of the Government's opponents, in the by-election campaign, in arousing prejudices and passions and in stirring up party political controversy on all kinds of questions are both unwarranted and unworthy."

The present contest is certainly making it increasingly difficult for the Administration, and, in particular, for the Minister of National Defence to give undivided attention to the prosecution of our country's war effort.

The kind and degree of opposition which the Government is meeting in the present by-

election in Grey North could not fail to have a wholly detrimental effect upon the proceedings of a session of Parliament to be held immediately following the conclusion of the contest. Bitter feelings and animosities engendered by this political strife would certainly be reflected in discussions in the House of Commons, thereby making co-operation in the work of the session increasingly difficult.

Is it conceivable that political leaders who, at a most critical period of the war, have striven in a by-election campaign to keep the Minister of National Defence out of Parliament, will suddenly change and have their parties in Parliament co-operate with the Government in the speedy enactment of its war policies?

Obstruction begun outside Parliament, on the eve of a new session is not likely to become any the less determined and aggressive in the House of Commons. It is now becoming apparent that, once the Minister of National Defence had been returned, members of Opposition parties in the House of Commons would follow the same tactics.

By-Election Significant

All this gives to the by-election in Grey North a significance much greater and much graver than it was intended to have. It has raised the question by their attitudes in the present campaign, the Progressive Conservative party and the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation are not creating and fostering the very circumstances which will make a general election inevitable at what may well prove to be the most critical of all stages of the war.

Until the day of official nomination, we shall not know definitely whether the Progressive Conservatives and the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation are determined to persist in their present attitudes. If they are, it will obviously be the duty of the Government to consider whether any useful purpose could be served by attempting to hold another session of the present Parliament.

Something vital to parliamentary government is threatened by the attitude of the Progressive Conservatives and of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation in the present contest.

Attitudes Examined

Take first the attitude of the Progressive Conservative party. Since the beginning of the present Parliament, the leader of this party, whether it was known as Conservative or Progressive Conservative, has never had a seat in the House of Commons. Since late in 1941, two successive leaders have directed its affairs from outside Parliament.

In over two years as leader of his party, the present leader has never attempted to secure a seat in Parliament. Through his party's efforts in the Grey North by-election, he is now responsible for trying to make it impossible, at a time of war, for the Minister of National Defence to have a seat in the House of Commons. . . . Were

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A valiant doubt is a diviner thing than a feeble belief.—L. P. Jacks.

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, JANUARY 23.

ADDING INSULTS TO INJURIES.

Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King has often declared his deep unwillingness to launch this country into a general election in time of war. But by these very appeals to the Canadian people not to place him under the necessity of calling an election, he places himself under exceptional responsibilities. He is, in fact, placing upon himself the duty of so conducting the government of the country in time of war as not to give occasion for any reasonable desire or urgent necessity for holding an election.

In short, if he really believes that an election in wartime would be so nationally injurious that it is his duty to avoid one if at all possible, then he should also believe that it is his duty to conduct the wartime government of Canada with so responsible a spirit and with such efficient results as to provide no legitimate grounds for any widespread public resentment. A good government governs easily, for it governs a contented people.

But at the very time that the King Government appeals to the people not to force it into the painful necessity of holding a general election, the disquieting deficiencies of its administration are mirrored with perfect plainness in public events. Under these circumstances, such an appeal becomes, in effect, an appeal to the people not to disturb a government that is governing badly.

Within only the last few months the entire country has been deeply astonished and upset by two crises. In both cases the Government, by sins of omission and commission, allowed these crises to develop. In the end, they burst out of government silence into public knowledge, and, becoming public knowledge, produced profound reactions of public opinion.

A few months ago, Mr. King said, in reference to a general election, that he could "think of no course of action fraught with greater danger to our war effort." But the two crises which have been allowed to arise within a few months have been fraught with very great danger to our war effort. They have disclosed a hesitant and irresolute mentality in the country's wartime administration; they have raised uncertainties about the sufficient maintenance of the reinforcement pools overseas; they have provided this country with damaging advertisement among our Allies and with encouraging advertisement among our enemies.

Mr. King declared last November that a general election might have the effect of removing him from office and replacing him with anarchy. There are times when the alternatives are by no means wholly distinct. Certainly a condition of anarchy exists at present among the Home Defence troops detailed for overseas, when 50 per cent. were recently absent without leave, and when, 40 per cent. are still unaccounted for.

The gathering impatience of the people has been provoked by the essential tediousness of the Government's manpower failures. Only last November the country was put through an experience of almost intolerable anxiety. It was hoped that, having felt the weight of an aroused public opinion, the Government would recover from the tendency to evade its responsibilities. But the first crisis only produced the second. In November the Government displayed its unwillingness to use the Home Defence troops for compulsory overseas service. Now it has permitted a great part of them to run through its relaxed fingers.

It is obvious that the Government's case against holding an election would have a far more convincing validity if the Government did not subject the country to recurring crises of anxiety by suffering recurrent lapses of consistency that it combine its appeals for public tranquillity with an administration that produces public instability. Its present method of appealing for public restraint under Government provocation is almost like adding insults to injuries.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1945

A NATION'S HEALTH IS A NATION'S WEALTH

THE GREY NORTH SITUATION

PREMIER KING'S message to the electors of Grey North poses a grave problem not only to the electors of that constituency but to the whole country as well. The problem, simply stated, is whether the nation is to be thrust into the turmoil of a general election at a critical period of the war. It was generally assumed that this issue had been decided when the House of Commons voted confidence in the Government after the reinforcement controversy, but in Grey North the whole issue has been revived and refought. As a result, Mr. King feels—and with some reason—that he is being forced to call a general election earlier than the interests of the country would demand.

Parliament, he told the Grey North electors, will meet on January 31st only to bring to an end the session which began a year ago. No intimation is given as to when the new session will be called, and it is not improbable that should the opposition succeed in defeating General McNaughton, the elected candidate will never take his seat in Parliament because Parliament may not be summoned until a general election has been held. In that event, the whole controversy stirred up during the by-election campaign will have been fruitless and futile.

The Prime Minister is not bound by the Constitution to call an election within a fixed time after the dissolution of Parliament. All that the B.N.A. Act says on this score is that the life of Parliament shall be five years and that it must be called into session once at least in every year. (Articles 20 and 50.) The Government, then, is under no compulsion either to call Parliament together between January 31st and April 17th, when its life terminates, or to call a general election within a fixed term after Parliament dissolves. It could carry on for a time without the House, functioning as it does between sessions. Such a course would facilitate the choice of a right moment. By mid-summer the war in Europe might be ended, or, if military affairs were not then in crisis, the country could turn to elections without detracting too much from the war effort.

What is imperative, as we have said time and time again, is that a general election should not be held at a time when its holding would distract the country.

DAILY SINKINGS OF SHIPS BARED BY MCNAUGHTON

Defence Minister Says U-Boat Peril Is Increasing Fast in the North Atlantic

Shallow Lake, Ont., January 24.
—Defence Minister McNaughton said tonight that "Today the North Atlantic is, as it hasn't been for months past, alive with German submarines."

"We are having ships sunk day by day," said Gen. McNaughton in telling a political rally here why he had not been able to campaign last week as government candidate in the Grey North election of February 5.

He had remained at his desk in Ottawa last week because a large draft of reinforcements for the Army was on the high seas. He was unable to tell the electors of Grey North why he had remained until the troops had arrived safely overseas.

"The North Atlantic is a mighty cold place and we don't want the submarines to get at our troop ships," he said. It was essential to keep out of the press any information about troop movements "despite the wild and careless demands of certain newspapers," he said.

Speaking to a gathering in the Orange Hall of this village, Gen. McNaughton said:

1. He was having a "little trouble" with his health when he returned to Canada last year as commander of the Canadian Army overseas.

MEDICAL CLEARANCE

2. He had decided he was not cut out for public life and had "practically" committed himself to another line of endeavor when Prime Minister Mackenzie King asked him to become Defence Minister.

3. Before he accepted the post he had "got clearance from doctors that I could go back to something strenuous."

4. The order-in-council passed during the last session of Parliament made all home defence troops liable for overseas service and gave the Defence Minister the authority to take 16,000 as a first draft.

5. Military authorities had advised that if it was planned to get 8,000 N.R.M.A. troops overseas 15,000, 16,000 or 17,000 should be warned for overseas service because 6,000, or 7,000 likely were to go absent without leave.

Telling of events which led up to his entry into the government, Gen. McNaughton said that when he returned from overseas "I had a little trouble with my health and I spent some time getting it back." While recuperating he had decided that he was not cut out for public life and he had practically committed himself to another line of endeavor entirely.

Then the reinforcement issue cropped up and the Prime Minister consulted him to find out what should be done to meet the situation. Gen. McNaughton said he had never been very far away from the army following his return to Canada and he told Mr. King what course he believed should be followed.

"I think it is a duty to the state that when you give advice you should be prepared to carry it out regardless of the consequences," he said. That was why he had accepted the appointment to the cabinet even though it meant cutting off everything he had planned for his life. The job to be tackled immediately was that of getting reinforcements. A source for the reinforcements was the home defence army which at one time numbered some 90,000 men.

'MANY NOT GOOD'

"I had a feeling that a proportion of these men were all right, but that a high proportion were neither good to God or man," said Gen. McNaughton.

He had a feeling that the home defence troops had not been well treated and had been driven into themselves. Instead of counting it an honor to serve their King and Country, their outlook was swayed around and they were boastful of the fact that they were "zombies" and doing nothing for their country.

Shortly after accepting the cabinet post he twice appealed to the home defence men to come forward and serve their country.

"I was met with a storm of abuse throughout the country," Gen. McNaughton said. "You don't expect half the newspapers in Canada to turn against you for another

Liberal Organ Critical of King For Risking McNaughton Defeat

(Gazette Staff Correspondent.)

Quebec, January 24. — Prime Minister Mackenzie King is reproached today in the leading editorial of Le Soleil, French language afternoon daily which still carries at its masthead the slogan "Organ Liberal," because he has exposed Gen. McNaughton to the danger of a defeat in Grey North, which the general personally does not merit, rather than naming him to the Senate. A parliamentary secretary could have handled matters in the House of Commons for the Minister of National Defence, stated the article.

This is the second attack against the federal government in Le Soleil this week.

Today's editorial refers to the personal worth of Gen. McNaughton, stating: "It may be that Gen. McNaughton will never be elected to the House of Commons, but that will not detract from his record of services. To him belongs, because of his example, devotion and efficiency, the honor of having created a Canadian army the value of which is proclaimed by military experts in the Allied camp as in that of the Germans. It may also be that the new minister of defence will never be beaten, either in a byelection or in a general election. Rather than to have exposed him to a defeat which he does not merit personally, it would have been preferable for Mr. Mackenzie King to have named him senator, leaving it to a parliament-

ary secretary to answer for him in the House of Commons. No doubt, contrary to what exists still at London, the custom established for close to 40 years would have it that the head of a department be a deputy at Ottawa. But, unless we err, the custom has not the force of law, and the legislators may even make exceptions to the rule in special cases. No matter what happens, Gen. McNaughton remains worthy today, as yesterday, of the extraordinary compliments of which he was justly the object. Among those who are fighting him at this moment, there are public men who had suggested him as a leader acceptable to all parties in a union government; and others have reproached the Prime Minister for not having invited him earlier to join his cabinet. The name of Gen. McNaughton has even been proposed in England as one of the strategists worthy of being a member of the High Command of the Allies. All this does not prevent the electors of Grey North having the right to vote against such a man in order to attack a party or a government. There are many counties in the Province of Quebec where in the same circumstances, a moderate opinion would have shown more regard for Gen. McNaughton."

The French Press

Mr. King's Dilemma (Le Droit)

Since the death of the late Minister of Justice (Rt. Hon. Ernest Lapointe), Mr. King's policy has cost him tremendously dear. Mr. King has lost three ministers: Messrs. Cardin, Ralston and Power. The Liberal Party has been defeated in three provinces where it had a strong majority when Mr. Lapointe was alive. These are Quebec, Saskatchewan and Ontario. By its conscription policy, the Liberal Party, renouncing its platform of the last 25 years, has lost Quebec, the bulwark of the Prime Minister's political support, perhaps forever. The disintegration of the Liberal Party has assumed serious proportions, especially in French Canada. Liberal members have joined the ranks of the Opposition. Some new parties have arisen—the Bloc Populaire and the Independent movement. That is the balance sheet of the King Government's policy since the death of the late Minister of Justice.

This Government now approaches the end of its term of office. Unless it demands an extension, it will expire April 17 next. The new Defence Minister, Mr. King's trump card in the sad national and political conscription crisis, is the centre of a violent campaign in Grey North; so much so that no one ventures to predict who will win this complementary election. That is certainly sufficient cause to make a man cautious, who has to choose between a general election, either on short notice or in six months, and an attempt at extending the life of Parliament under present conditions.

What will Mr. King do after the fifth of February? The general opinion among political observers is that, in the event of a victory for General McNaughton, the Government will call a short session at the end of February. Parliament will then be dissolved on April 17. Then a general election will take place some months later. But in the event of the Defence Minister's defeat, it is believed that the Government will not convene for the new session, but that it will call a general election for the end of April.

All that, however, is pure speculation. Perhaps the Prime Minister does not know what he will do himself if Grey North does not elect General McNaughton.

ALL EMPLOYEES TO BE CHECKED IN A.W.O.L. HUNT

R.C.M.P. and Provost Press Search for 1,000 Missing Draftees in This Area

Intensification of the search for the more than 1,000 home defence troops A.W.O.L. from regiments stationed in Quebec province will be featured by a complete re-checking of all employers and employees with firms, banks, stores, restaurants, places of amusement and other establishments.

This was learned here yesterday from Supt. Josephat Brunet, officer commanding the Quebec division of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; and Insp. C. W. Harvison, in charge of the R.C.M.P. Criminal Investigation Bureau.

It was also reported on good authority that even the employees in all war plants would be checked, but no official comment could be obtained on this point.

Military authorities still maintained a shroud of secrecy surrounding present and near future activities in connection with the search for the deserters and absentees. It was learned from an unofficial source, however, that steps were being taken to give members of the Canadian Provost Corps authority to check on civilians as well as uniformed army personnel or to use special agents for such work. It was agreed that this would be a step in the right direction and would enable the Provost Corps members to better collaborate with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the large task of conducting the country-wide search for the 6,300 soldiers missing since they were giving pre-embarkation leave.

The R.C.M.P. chiefs here stated that the re-checking of all employers and employees with firms, stores, banks, restaurants, places of amusement and other establishments here will be conducted somewhat along the lines of the check made here about six months ago when the employers were ordered to collaborate with the National Selective Service in checking all employees. The employers in the previous case were obliged to demand discharge, deferment of exemption army papers from all employees, and to report to National Selective Service all employees unable to produce such papers. The latter were then reported by National Selective Service to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

TO REPORT TO POLICE

This time, however, the employers will be obliged to report direct to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Provost Corps. The police will investigate all employees within the military age limits who are unable to produce the necessary papers.

The possibility of civilians actually being stopped on the street by the R.C.M.P. or Provost Corps officers for checking purposes was not foreseen for the moment, according to information obtained.

But the search for missing soldiers and delinquent draftees will be conducted with diligence in places of employment, railway stations, public buildings, places of amusement such as dance halls, bowling alleys, pool rooms, cabarets, clubs. Establishments were "barbote" games, illegal card games and other gambling will also come in for their fair share of searching as well as many a place known by police to have been formerly used as hiding spots.

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MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24.

YOU SPEAK, NOT I.

The statement issued yesterday by Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King regarding the Grey North by-election provides an additional revelation of his attitude towards the growing opposition with which he is finding himself alarmingly confronted. This attitude was strikingly disclosed last November when he felt his position shaken by public indignation. At that time he would not admit that there had been any deficiency in his administration, but contended that nothing more than a movement of organized unrest had produced the crisis. This movement of organized unrest, so far from having any justification in fact, would one day "be exposed and fully condemned."

It is with this same strategy that he now attempts to offset the alarming opposition in Grey North. He declares that one thing no administration could afford to countenance would be "to allow its own position in the confidence of the country to be undermined by unwarranted and unworthy party activities on the part of political opponents, while the administration itself was giving its undivided attention and devoting its whole energies to the prosecution of the war effort of the country."

Turning from this statement of principle to the particulars in Grey North, he declares that "the activities of the Government's opponents; in the by-election campaign, in arousing prejudices and passions and in stirring up party political controversy on all kinds of questions are both 'unwarranted and unworthy'."

It is very characteristic of Mr. King that he should make much of constitutional points and present himself as acting in an eminently constitutional, and, consequently, in an eminently democratic manner. So it is that he now declares that if confidence in his administration is further undermined by unwarranted and unworthy party activities, he will find himself under the necessity, however great his reluctance, of calling a general election.

But if examined somewhat more closely, it will be seen that such a move on Mr. King's part might have certain political advantages. For his election would then obviously be fought on the ground that he is being compelled to appeal to the electorate, not because the deficiencies of his own administration have of themselves effectively undermined public confidence, but because unwarranted and unworthy party activities on the part of political opponents have sought to destroy public confidence in an administration which has been giving its undivided attention and its whole energies to the prosecution of the war effort of the country. More than this, he has systematically endeavored to make a general election in wartime appear like a terrible national injury. Consequently, if such an election should come about, it would seek to place the whole responsibility of it on the shoulders of those who had criticized the Government's policies.



THE POT AND THE KETTLE

It remains to be seen, however, to what extent those who have lost confidence in the Government will feel themselves unwarranted and unworthy. It also remains to be seen to what extent the ordinary family people of the country, who have committed their sons to the nation's war effort, will feel convinced that the administration has in fact been giving its undivided attention and its whole energies to the prosecution of this effort. It will, still further, remain to be seen to what extent, in a Canadian democracy, criticism of the deficiencies of a party government will be accepted as action against the security of the state.

For the fact is that Mr. King himself has provided only too wide a cause for the opposition which he now both resents and fears. Subjected to severe criticism, he seeks to transfer the motives of this criticism from his own failures to the unfairness of his critics. He may best be answered in the words written some twenty years ago by an eminent Canadian writer:

"If any person . . . were to protest that strong words are used in depicting his lineaments, the defence of Electra avails: 'You speak, not I. You do the deeds. Your deeds find me the words.' . . ."

KING AND COLDWELL GANG UP, SAYS CASE

Conservative Candidate in
Grey North Sees Sinister
Relations

GODFREY LAUDS C.C.F.

He Says It Is the Only Party
in Canada with a Con-
structive Policy for
Common Man

Heathcote, Ont., January 24. — Garfield Case, Progressive Conservative candidate in the federal by-election February 5 in Grey North constituency, charged in a campaign speech tonight that Prime Minister Mackenzie King and C.C.F. leader M. J. Coldwell are "ganging up to split the anti-government vote in the by-election."

He added: "It will take a lot to convince me that there isn't collusion between the government and the C.C.F. party."

In an address prepared for delivery before a political rally in this Grey county community, Mr. Case asserted that when Defence Minister McNaughton was nominated as the government candidate local C.C.F. supporters said they didn't have a man to nominate even if they were asked by the central party organization to enter a candidate. Then Air Vice-Marshal A. Earl Godfrey was brought in from Gananogue, Ont., to run as a C.C.F. candidate.

Mr. Case said that if he didn't have the backing of John Bracken, National Progressive Conservative leader, "I wouldn't carry his standard and he knows it."

He made this statement in commenting on an article in the Winnipeg Free Press, written by Grant Dexter, which said: "It is fairly well known at Ottawa that Mr. Bracken was opposed to putting up a candidate in Grey North. Further, he is said to have regarded the candidacy of Mr. Case as not up to the standard he would prefer."

DENIES STATEMENT.

"I challenge that statement with all the strength at my command," said Mr. Case.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King was attempting to "sabotage" the by-election which was being held in the interests of the people. Mr. King had issued statements which were causing confusion in the minds of Grey North voters and had intimated that the by-election would be called off if Gen. McNaughton was not given an acclamation.

"He is holding a threat over the heads of the electors, a threat such as never should be held over the heads of a democratic people."

The C.C.F. was ready to support conscription of manpower "on the condition that Canada adopt socialism, something the boys overseas are fighting against." Canada had progressed under the democratic system which the C.C.F. sought to destroy. While some changes were needed to keep up with a changing world, the troops overseas should have a say in them.

The C.C.F. had no appeal to make to the electors of Grey North and is "seeking to sell ideas that are completely foreign to the British system of government."

Mr. Case said Gen. McNaughton was quoted as saying in a campaign speech last night that last November he had recommended that the government make all of Canada's home defence troops available for service overseas.

"If that is the case, as Ralston was in the same position as Ralston was in, but apparently he hasn't the same courage to follow Ralston."

(Col. J. L. Ralston resigned last November as Defence Minister after the government turned down his suggestion that home defence troops be made available for overseas service.)

Col. Ralston was one of the "biggest" men in Canada today. He must have had to make a momentous decision when he recalled Gen. McNaughton from command of the Canadian Army overseas. No country disposed of its commanders lightly and the decision made by Col. Ralston must have been concurred in by the cabinet. Col. Ralston had made another momentous decision when he recommended enforcement of conscription. When his request was refused he had the courage to resign.

Praises C.O.F. Policies

Holland Centre, Ont., January 24. — Air Vice-Marshal A. Earl Godfrey, retired R.C.A.F. officer who is C.C.F. candidate in the Grey North federal by-election at a meeting tonight said the C.C.F. party believed Canada had sufficient resources, "if they are properly used," to raise the living standards of Canadians without depriving anyone of any comfort.

"One of the reasons I joined the C.C.F.," he said, "was because I found it was the only party which had a constructive program designed to improve the fortunes of those who were not as well off. The C.C.F. does not believe in tearing down the living standards of those who, through their own hard work, have earned a little comfort and security for themselves."

"I remember, after the last war, how many of my former comrades came home to unemployment and breadlines. I find in the C.C.F. the only party which is determined that the veterans of this war shall not come home to the same conditions—and which has a practical program to see that they do not. "During the last depression it was my misfortune to be placed in military command of one of the 24-cents-a-day labor camps which was the only answer the Conservative government could find for unemployment. I did my best to make life as pleasant as possible for the men under my charge, but no effort on my part could change the fact that a Conservative government had condemned these men to a bare existence, without prospects and without hope."

"As a member of the armed forces I wasn't free at that time to do what I felt, but I made up my mind that when the opportunity came I would associate myself with some group, that would take action to prevent such a disaster from striking our country again. I found that group in the C.C.F."

The C.C.F. was dedicated to the principle that poverty and unemployment and insecurity were a national disgrace and that they must be abolished.

The C.C.F. had a constructive democratic program drawn up with the first purpose of abolishing these evils.

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Our sincere thought can move heaven and earth.
—Chinese.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, JANUARY 25.

WHAT MR. KING MAY BE PLANNING.

The reactions of the Government to the by-election in Grey North are becoming of increasing value in indicating its attitude towards the broader issue of a general election. For as the political campaign in Grey North has progressed, a significant change has come over the Government's pronouncements. The change, indeed, shows signs of becoming an actual "about face."

A fundamental question very naturally arises: Has the Grey North by-election caused the Government's changed attitude towards the timing of a general election? Or has the by-election been made the occasion or the pretext for this change?

Clearly Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King and his Government, sensitive as they undoubtedly are to the gathering uncertainties of their position, have had to ponder two possible courses of action. As the first alternative, they can delay the holding of a general election until the summer, when the war in Europe might be over, or when the end might be very close at hand. As the second alternative, they might call an election almost at once, and fight the election with the war still in a tense and strenuous stage.

Until the reinforcement crisis of last November, the Government seemed to be conducting itself on the first alternative. Indeed, the main defence made by the Prime Minister in the House on November 27 rested upon the national dangers which a general election in wartime would involve, and his main plea for continued confidence rested upon the patriotic necessity for avoiding these dangers. The political advantages to the present Government in such a course would lie in the possibility that, with the war over or practically over, its reinforcement failures would lose the force of a live problem, and an election could be fought in the bracing atmosphere of victory.

But there are now indications that the Government is considering that a wartime election might offer better prospects after all. But it would require the skilful development of a particular strategy. If the Government could make it appear that its conspicuous failures have been due not to any deficiency on its part, but to the wilful and politically-minded obstruction of its opponents, then the greater the strain of actual war the stronger its appeal for a demonstration of definite public support.

♦ ♦ ♦

such a reversal of policy would, however, require a plausible argument that this obstruction actually exists. It is worth considering whether the Grey North by-election is not being used by the Government as a convenient and very timely pretext for its new political strategy.

An examination of the Government's attitude towards the by-election discloses some points of very relevant interest. Statements have been issued which, on the surface, display a naivete very unlike the customary shrewdness of the party's methods. Early rumors were spread from Ottawa to the effect that an acclamation for Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton was very probable. And the rumors had this significant basis, namely, that the Progressive Conservative Party was actually thinking better of its narrow and unpatriotic resolution to contest the election and would still grant Gen. McNaughton an acclamation. These rumors provoked a general incredulity and astonishment that the opposition candidate was really to be withdrawn. When these rumors were denied, and the intention to oppose the Government's candidate was restated, it is possible that the Government had completed the first stage of its campaign.

There followed Mr. King's own statement that the Government was meeting with a most unexpected opposition and that the Grey North electors ought to be profoundly shocked at this exhibition of partisanship. Then came the fuller disclosure of the Government's strategy in Mr. King's statement on Tuesday. He made the point that the activities of the Government's opponents in the by-election were "both unwarranted and unworthy", and that the Government could not efficiently prosecute the war with this kind of conduct on the part of its opponents.

Consequently, he now declares that the Government may be led, wholly against its inclinations, to appeal to the people in time of war, because this opposition is compelling it to this most undesirable course. Very notably indeed, Mr. King introduces the element of a threat into his statement. The Government's opponents still have until nomination day on January 29 to withdraw. Otherwise the guilt and blame for a general election may fall wholly upon their heads. Mr. King, of course, knows very well that they will not withdraw.

In the meantime Gen. McNaughton may be pursuing the same policy along a parallel line. He is doing his part by trying to place upon the opposition the guilt and blame for the failure of the Government's voluntary system. Indeed, on January 23 he told the Grey North electors, and the wider listening audience, that he could have maintained the voluntary system when he took the office of Minister of National Defence had he not been frustrated by the activities (also, no doubt, unwarranted and unworthy) which were carried on by the opposition parties.

But the question arises: What if Gen. McNaughton is defeated? Would not this be to the Government a blow so severe that even charges of obstruction may fail to counteract it? Yet it is possible the Government might not allow the defeat of Gen. McNaughton. For there is a very convenient way of escape. Parliament has been summoned by the Government to meet on January 31. If Parliament is then dissolved, the Grey North by-election would be eliminated, because it would be impossible to elect a member to a parliament which would then no longer exist. And has the Prime Minister not declared that the Government would have to consider after nomination day on January 29 "whether any useful purpose could be served by attempting to hold another session of the present parliament"?

Certainly this has all the appearances of a very characteristic strategy. The very strength of the opposition in an abruptly interrupted by-election in Grey North may become the basis on which the Government will go to the whole country. It is a strategy that would be worthy of the Prime Minister. It will remain to be seen whether the electors will consider it worthy of the country.

11 Veteran Officers Rap Army 'Muddle'

TORONTO, Jan. 26—(C.P.)—Eleven discharged Army officers with overseas service yesterday addressed an open letter to the press of Canada impelled by the "absence or desertion of 6,300 Canadian soldiers." They described their letter, dated at the Army's Christie street Hospital, Toronto, as "a non-partisan contribution to the solution of this shameful crisis."

The 300-word letter called on the Government to acknowledge that a serious crisis exists, to pass an Order-in-Council making the whole Army available for overseas service, and to strengthen Army discipline to avoid any future collapse of authority.

Text of the letter follows:

"The signatories of this letter are discharged Army officers who have served overseas. We are shocked by the absence or desertion of 6,300 Canadian soldiers when great battles are taking place in Europe. We are addressing this letter to the newspapers of Canada as a non-partisan contribution to the solution of this shameful crisis."

Authority Lost

"The Government has lost its authority over thousands of soldiers. Many citizens have lost confidence in the Government's Army policy. To remedy the situation the Government must adopt an Army policy which commands public support. The people and the press must do their duty by supporting Army discipline and morale."

"We believe that the army policy should include three features. Firstly, the Government should acknowledge that a serious crisis exists. It should call on all patriotic citizens to aid the Army and police in apprehending deserters. Secondly, an Order-in-Council should be passed making the whole Army available for overseas service. Finally, the discipline of the Army must be strengthened to avoid any future collapse of authority."

"For their part, citizens should denounce any attempts by troops to avoid overseas service. They should cease complaints about alleged injustices and inefficiencies in the Army. The press should stop printing irresponsible interviews with soldiers, which have caused great harm to discipline and morale. The Army cannot function properly in war-time in a blaze of publicity. There must be restraint and the observance of security, inspired by confidence."

Strife Forecast

"Many citizens may expect the election to settle Army policy. But the election will provoke months of Army strife, during which policy will be uncertain. Is it not possible to secure general agreement on Army policy now? Swallowing of pride on all sides is needed. The Government has been weak. The Opposition parties have used this grave situation for partisan purposes. Some newspapers have been inflammatory and irresponsible. If those concerned would admit their faults this crisis could be remedied now, instead of a possible settlement by one party after the election. Do we not owe this to

our soldiers overseas, and to our Allies?"

Those signing were: Maj. F. L. Dudley Bowmanville; Maj. G. F. Colclough, Calgary; Maj. F. E. Goulding, Simcoe; Capt. T. L. Carter, Toronto; Capt. R. S. McGuire, Toronto; Lieut. J. L. Maraskas, Belleville; Lieut. J. H. Edwards, Toronto; Lieut. C. A. Smith, Shaunavon, Sask.; Lieut. J. A. Manuel, Meaford; Lieut. A. C. Richardson, Toronto; and Lieut. J. W. Burnet, Burlington, Ont.

Few In N.S.

HALIFAX, Jan. 26—(C.P.)—Absentees without leave among N.R.M.A. troops in Military District No. 6 who have been ordered overseas, do not run into large numbers, Brig. D. A. White, District Officer Commanding, said in a statement last night. The district includes Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

The statement was issued in a reply to newspaper queries on the situation in this district following disclosure a few days ago of wholesale absenteeism among overseas-bound N.R.M.A. troops.

VANCOUVER, Jan. 26—(C.P.)—The New Veterans' branch 163 of the Canadian Legion announced that a mass meeting will be held here Sunday to enlist public sympathy in protesting sending back overseas veteran soldiers returned to Canada after five years service.

A resolution passed by the branch said the New Veterans were "dynamically opposed to the returning of combat veterans to the field of action until such time as total conscription has been implemented."

No Harboring

VANCOUVER, Jan. 26—(C.P.)—A Pacific Command spokesman said no cases of "harboring" Army deserters have been discovered thus far in British Columbia in connection with the search for Home Defence men who went absent without leave following Christmas and New Year's leaves.

Ottawa Protest

TORONTO, Jan. 26—(C.P.)—The Civic Employes War Veterans' Association in a letter to Hon. A. G. L. McNaughton, Defence Minister, asked for publication in daily newspapers of the names and addresses of A.W.L. members of the armed forces.

The letter said the request was "not to be construed as a criticism of Government policy" but was suggested as a more effective method of rounding up absentees. It termed "tedious" the method of R.C.M.P. and civilian police of systematic check-up on soldiers' passes and civilians' draft status papers.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1945

A NATION'S HEALTH IS A NATION'S WEALTH

CANADA'S WAR RECORD SPEAKS

IT is a wholesome exercise to think of the Canadian war effort as a whole, rather than concentrate on one particular aspect that may be under critical examination at a given moment. Too often critics of Canada, and of her war effort in particular—domestic as well as foreign critics—lose perspective by trying to make a broad generalization from a particular instance.

An excellent example of this refusal to see the woods for the trees was given recently in Grey North. In that constituency the Progressive Conservative candidate, Garfield Case, referring to the mechanization of the Canadian overseas army, said: "I am told you will find this mechanized equipment crated and strewn along our railway lines across the country. This was ordered at a cost of untold millions by my friend McNaughton. Some of it has been disposed of to Russia. Much of it has been turned into scrap. . ."

Much can be forgiven the effervescence of an election campaign, but this statement is a complete misrepresentation of the Canadian war effort. Perspective can be restored only by looking at the over-all picture.

Make no mistake about it: Whatever criticism may be directed at any one aspect of the war effort, in sum it is magnificent. It must at all times be related to the country's small population. Comparisons of total Canadian output with total British, Russian or American production, are not valid comparisons. On a per capita basis and in relation to pre-war capacity Canada equals any one of these and may surpass them.

Look for a moment at detailed figures, remembering always that this has been accomplished by a country with a population of twelve million people which has, at the same time, enlisted close to one million men for military service. These are production figures to the end of 1944:

10,000-ton ships, delivered.	814
Frigates, corvettes, mine-sweepers	808
Service aircraft	4,771
Trainer aircraft	9,046
Tanks	3,040
Self-propelled gun mounts.	2,175
Personnel and equipment carriers	30,881
Other armoured vehicles . .	9,242
Mechanical transport . . .	707,103
Communications equipment	386,000,000
Instruments	120,000,000
Machine guns and carbines	379,920
Rifles and small arms . . .	1,046,760
Gun barrels	67,221
Gun carriages and mountings	39,928
Small arms ammunition (rounds)	4,200,000,000
Shells, empty and filled . .	122,509,000
Cartridge cases	187,320,200

This is only a partial record. It tells nothing about the stupendous production of aluminum and the hydro-electric system developed to produce it. It glosses over Canada's great contribution to the Allied metals pool—85 per cent of the nickel; 20 per cent of the zinc; copper 14 per cent; lead, 1 per cent; asbestos, 78 per cent, and aluminum, already mentioned, 35 per cent. All this represents production. These metals were in the country; we got them out as part of the war effort.

And the tabulation says nothing about the cost, but it should be remembered as part of Canada's war effort that all these things were supplied for Allied use at minimum cost under a system of control that has aroused admiration elsewhere. No other Allied nation has been as successful as Canada in controlling its domestic economy, maintaining a stable price and wage level and at the same time, by a rationing system that has worked better than most, keeping its people at home supplied.

This is all production of a kind, necessary war-time production requiring determination and initiative and co-ordinated planning of high order. And none of it is "strewn along the railway lines." It is in productive use on the world's battlefields. Anyone who ov

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Ambition looks aloft for inspiration, and then goes down below to work.—Rev. Norman Dando.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JANUARY 26.

McNAUGHTON IGNORES REALITIES.

In conducting his campaign in Grey North, Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton has found himself under the primary necessity of explaining the anomaly of his position. He is, in fact, called upon to explain how, having taken office as the advocate of a wholly voluntary system, he now continues in office as the exponent of a conscriptionist one.

Gen. McNaughton has his explanation and he is making much of it in his campaign speeches. He declares that his convictions about the absolute superiority of the voluntary system have undergone no change whatever. More than this, he is convinced that such a system could have been maintained by him had he not met with such a wave of abuse, especially from the newspapers, that his appeals to the Home Defence troops were frustrated. This abuse he believes came from those who would have been happy to see his system fail.

But if the opposition which Gen. McNaughton met upon assuming office is to be wholly understood, there is a fact important to consider, but which Gen. McNaughton ignores. This is the fact that his predecessor, Col. J. L. Ralston, had believed—and had led many to believe—that the voluntary system could no longer produce the number of trained infantry which was urgently needed. It is just possible that some at least of Gen. McNaughton's critics believed that he was attempting to carry on a system which could not be made to work in the crisis, and which was, therefore, likely to imperil the whole reinforcement situation. Those who trusted Col. Ralston necessarily opposed Gen. McNaughton. And surely Gen. McNaughton does not suggest that Col. Ralston was a man eager to see the voluntary system fail.

Indeed, it is very well to remember that the differences of view between Col. Ralston and Gen. McNaughton were not the differences of a conscriptionist and an anti-conscriptionist. Col. Ralston, quite as much as Gen. McNaughton, believed in the superior desirability of voluntary enlistment. Indeed, he found it necessary to set Gen. McNaughton thoroughly right on this point. Speaking in the House of Commons on November 23, in the presence of Gen. McNaughton, he said:

I think he rather attributed to me the policy of conscription for conscription's sake, or conscription whether necessary or not. My policy has always been, and it has been frequently announced in this house, conscription when necessary, and I was following that policy when I made the recommendation I did which was not accepted by the Government. I hope that the general will accept that correction. . . .

Six days later, Col. Ralston returned to this point with emphasis in these words:

I think all hon. members will remember what I have said in the house from time to time. I have stood in my place and defended the voluntary system. I have worked just as hard as I possibly could to support it.

It is therefore impossible for Gen. McNaughton to suggest that the opposition inevitably raised against him and his policy by the stand taken by Col. Ralston had its origin wholly in a desire for conscription whether necessary or not. The further question arises: Did those who accepted Col. Ralston's conclusions, in contradistinction to those of Gen. McNaughton, have any conscientious grounds for believing that Col. Ralston, rather than Gen. McNaughton, was speaking with authority?

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Truth to the mind is like solid rock to the feet.
—Arthur Brisbane.

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30.

EXHIBITING A LOST MORALE.

The most recent step taken by Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King to assure the election in Grey North of Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton must be nearly as humiliating to the pride of the Government as it is astonishing in the eyes of the public.

Mr. King has begged, threatened and promised within the limits of his capacity in an effort to prevent the election from taking place, or at least to prevent an unfavorable conclusion. His latest plea is that there is no need for the electors in Grey North to concern themselves with political feelings in the present by-election, as he now gives them assurance that a general election will be called before the natural death of the present Parliament on April 17, and in this general election that will follow they will have an opportunity to express their real convictions.

Whatever effect this plea may once have had is now vitally lessened by all that has gone before. After threats and menaces, this plea is as poor in grace as it may prove to be negligible in result.

Surely in the considerable political history of this Dominion there can never have been a case in which a Government has acted with such timidity and nervousness, or with such petulance and instability. It began with an attempt to lower confidence in the determination of the opposition by spreading rumors that there would be no actual nominations of opposition members. Then came a statement from Mr. King himself that the higher view would yet be taken and that the precedent of not opposing a minister in a by-election would be followed even with regard to his unprecedented minister. Then came the threat that unless the opposing members were withdrawn from the contest, Parliament might be dissolved, and the by-election would be called off before it came to a vote. Then followed Gen. McNaughton's brave words that he would fight it out after all. Now comes a further assurance from Mr. King to the electors that if they elect the General, they will get their general election.

Whatever the results in the Grey North by-election may be, there is little doubt that the Government is weakening its already shaken reputation. After the November crisis, and what was then revealed, the task before the Government became essentially that of self-rehabilitation. It ought to have done all in its power to show resolution, consistency, dignity, self-respect. Once it had chosen, with a truly judicial care, a safe seat with a proven and historic party loyalty, it ought then to have sought to present at least a semblance of courage and self-assurance.

Instead, however, it has shown with painful conspicuousness and with an almost unbroken continuity all the various reactions and indications of fear and self-distrust and resentment which belong typically to the consciousness of insecurity during a test of character. Had there been some degree of consistency even in its instability, the impression created might not have been so injurious. But the Government has snatched at every expedient in succession, running the whole gamut of nervous symptoms. It has begged. It has threatened. Now it promises, and again begs.

Whether this hesitating conduct will affect even Grey North's traditional Liberal loyalty remains to be seen. But, whatever the local outcome, the Government's Grey North actions can hardly become a constructive and strengthening element in its future endeavors. Plainly the Government has lost its morale. And there are few exhibitions more serious or more damaging for a Government than the exhibition of a lost morale.

Here again the record is interesting. For in his review and defence of his policy in the House on November 29, Col. Ralston disclosed in great detail how often and with what intensity he had carried on his campaign for enlistments among the Home Defence troops. He made the highly relevant point that in the November crisis it was not merely enlistments of any Home Defence troops that were needed, but enlistments from that comparatively small number that were trained as infantry. In the light of his experience and under the urgency of the need he felt that he had no alternative than to recommend the use of compulsion. "The prospects of success seemed absolutely negligible," he said. "That was the situation."

On the other hand, Gen. McNaughton approached the problem after having been for several years out of the country, and having had no official connection with recruiting since his return. More than this, as Col. Ralston pointed out, he commenced his work as Minister of National Defence in a leisurely manner that reflected little sense of urgency, and little intention to come promptly to grips with the problem. He made a speech in Armagh in which he defended the voluntary system along general lines, but he did not mention the Home Defence troops, and did not visit any of their camps. Indeed, not until November 14 (more than two weeks after taking office) did he call the commanders of the military districts together to discuss the matter.

Gen. McNaughton has brought up the fact that he has been able to obtain a certain number of enlistments and "conversions" among the Home Defence troops. But two essential points are to be considered here. How many of these enlistments came from those 16,000 men who have the necessary training to be of use in the present need? And how many "conversions" would there have been had Gen. McNaughton not introduced that conscription measure which took away from the Home Defence troops the main inducement

which had prevented their enlistment—the legal choice of remaining at home?

It is obviously extremely necessary that Gen. McNaughton explain to the Grey North electors the anomaly of his position. But he will have a certain difficulty in convincing them that nothing but partisan prejudice ruined his voluntary system and made him a conscriptionist. There is the evidence of an expert witness that the change was made necessary by realities beyond even Gen. McNaughton's control. Many who opposed Gen. McNaughton in November, and who doubt him now, have faith that what Col. Ralston said was right. What is more, they believe that he performed a public duty by saying it.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1945

A NATION'S HEALTH IS A NATION'S WEALTH

NO AID TO DESERTERS

IN Montreal yesterday a man was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for helping to conceal a naval deserter. This was the first case of its kind in Eastern Canada and, perhaps as an example to others, the judge found it advisable to impose a severe penalty. The law is clear and unequivocal, and the citizen who helps men evade military service or helps conceal deserters must be aware that he is guilty of a serious offence not under the law alone but under the rules that should guide the good citizen.

There may be other cases of this kind. Thousands of draftees are still at large about the country, men warned for overseas duty who failed to report in time. By this time most of them are deserters. Now the deserter can rarely keep out of sight without help. It may appear natural for relatives and friends to help a man in trouble, but the deserter is in trouble of his own making and must take the medicine the law prescribes. He has branded himself, in any case, a poor citizen and will carry the stigma for the rest of his life, but he should not be allowed to drag others down to civil degradation with him, nor should others assist the process.

It is to be hoped that the severe sentence, without the option of a fine, may bring to their senses any who may be harbouring draftee deserters. Those who help are liable under the Army Act, the Militia Act, the Defence of Canada Regulations and the Dominion Criminal Code and will be brought to justice without fear or favour whenever they can be found.

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Always be loyal to your best moments.—John Macfeld.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31.

HOW ABOUT THOSE DESERTERS?

The routine disciplinary procedure of the Canadian Army is, under ordinary circumstances, something which concerns the Army alone, and is not a proper nor necessary subject for inquiry by the public. But when 7,800 soldiers of the Canadian Home Defence forces disappear within a few weeks, and when 6,300 were still unaccounted for as recently as ten days ago, a collapse of discipline has occurred, which, by its extent, becomes a matter of irrepressible public interest, as well as one for justified public information. For what has recently happened in the Canadian Army has ceased to be a departmental matter and has become a national issue.

There are, of course, two ways in which the Department of National Defence may deal, and may be dealing, with the men who had failed to report. On the one hand, it might continue the uncertain policy which it had formerly followed, and which had gone so far to precipitate the present disciplinary failure. That is to say, the Department may allow the men to return more or less at their own will and at their own convenience, with only minor penalties exacted for their delay. On the other hand, it might adopt a thorough and determined policy and practice, such as would rank the offence as an actual breach of wartime military discipline rather than as a merely minor infraction.

The head of the Department of National Defence, Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, has announced that a clear distinction is to be drawn, so that those who persist in remaining away will be no longer regarded by the Department as merely men absent without leave, but as deserters. This he has stressed in the course of his election speeches in Grey North. Speaking at Owen Sound on January 23, he declared that if the absent Home Defence men "have not returned, voluntarily or otherwise, by the end of 21 days from the date they became overdue, they will be considered deserters and treated in accordance with the regulations covering the offence. No effort will be spared to ensure that they are rounded up."

Speaking at Shallow Lake in the Grey North constituency on the following day he was even more pronounced in expressing his determination not only to see the absentees rounded up but to deal with them severely. "They are not the type of people we need be very proud of in this country," he said, "and we don't need to worry about showing them any sympathy or mercy."

It is a legitimate public demand that Gen. McNaughton should now make clear just what disciplinary measures are being taken by his Department with regard to those Home Defence men whom it is succeeding in rounding up. The legitimate reasons for not giving such information are not apparent. It is not easy to see how military security can in this case be made the grounds for official secrecy. Nor is it likely that the disclosure of severe measures would discourage men still absent from reporting. For Gen. McNaughton himself has already stated that they will be dealt with by the regulations concerning desertion, and will be shown no mercy; so if they have taken the general at his word, they have already been discouraged from reporting.

Gen. McNaughton's statement on January 21 disclosed how wide the collapse of discipline in the Army had become. By his own statement, the public interest has been aroused to learn what disciplinary methods the Department of National Defence is adopting to meet this unprecedented situation. It would appear to be within the right of the public to ask for this information and within the duty of Gen. McNaughton to provide it.

McNAUGHTON SLUGS IT OUT ALONE.

By all present indications, Liberal strategy for the remainder of the Grey North by-election campaign is to leave Defence Minister McNaughton to slug it out for himself in the three-cornered battle. This intensifies the somewhat gruelling political baptism of fire which his first bout with the electors has thrust upon the General. It also emphasizes the disadvantage under which he labors in being plunged abruptly into the hurly-burly of politics, with only the experience and capacities of a military man.

There will inevitably be speculation as to the reasons for the top party leaders stepping aside and letting General McNaughton go it alone. He is evidently to stand or fall without any further platform support from cabinet ministers, or others in the party hierarchy whose title or capacities could be counted on to beguile the voters. It is normally customary for a minister seeking a seat to be given aid and comfort by his cabinet colleagues in a close election such as Grey North promises to be, especially when a controversial issue is involved such as the McNaughton policy of finding volunteer reinforcements by compulsion.

The importance attached to this policy, and the direct responsibility of the Prime Minister (if not of the Government as a whole) for putting General McNaughton in his present position, is reflected by the three deliverances on the by-election which Mr. King has emitted from his East Block office.

It was Mr. King who pulled the General back from retirement to front for the "no conscription" policy originally taken in the crisis. It was Mr. King, with the complaisance of his cabinet colleagues, who retained the General as minister for the unhappy chore of defending and implementing the about-face of limited conscription. It is now Mr. King and—whether they like it or not—the rest of the cabinet who are vitally concerned in having their choice of General McNaughton, and the policy with which they have saddled him, vindicated in the Grey North contest.

In one breath the Prime Minister demands automatic and unopposed election of the Defence Minister, and "threatens" a general election as if it were a calamity for the people to have a chance to pass on the Government's muddling of the manpower problem. The next moment the public is told that it doesn't really matter whether the General is chosen or not, that he will continue to serve as minister, anyway, and that he will run in the coming general election in another riding. But it cannot be concealed that the Government has much at stake in the contest.

Ostensibly the motive in leaving the General alone for the final stages of the contest is to ease the adverse local reaction from the appearance of outside talent to push the fortunes of an outside candidate who is regarded somewhat coolly in any event. But there will be some who will suspect that several of the top ranking ministers, especially those who supported the view of ex-Defence Minister Ralston in the cabinet conscription crisis, are not afe with enthusiasm to aid the election of a man brought into the cabinet to bolster an opposite view.

Underlying the whole picture is the conjecture which still persists in political circles that the Government as a whole would not be unduly disturbed by General McNaughton's defeat, since he has obviously failed to fulfil the purpose of fending off conscription for which he was propped up in the cabinet. On the contrary, it is suggested, his defeat would even be welcomed as an excuse if not an issue on which to precipitate a general election before end-of-war anti-Liberal opinion had a chance to crystallize.

Whatever the reason, the support of cabinet calibre given the General has been limited in extent and of doubtful weight, even before the change in strategy. The only ministers to appear in the campaign have been Hon. Ian Mackenzie, Hon. Colin Gibson and Hon. William Mulock, who could hardly be classed as among the giants of the cabinet. It is difficult to imagine that the effect of their participation on General McNaughton's prospects would be anything but negligible, so that for all practical purposes it may be said that the General actually has waged his campaign without any real ministerial support—apart from the remote control blasts of the Prime Minister from Ottawa.

Bracken No Authority Is McNaughton Retort

Meaford, Ont., January 31.—(AP)—Defence Minister McNaughton said here tonight with reference to John Bracken, Progressive Conservative leader, that he could not understand why people who were not authorities on such matters as reinforcements would get up and make a "loose" statement that Canada's reinforcements were not adequate.

Addressing a political rally here, Gen. McNaughton, government candidate in the Grey North by-election, said that "a gentleman who spoke this afternoon" said that overseas reinforcements were inadequate.

"He is no authority on these matters," Gen. McNaughton said. "He made a quick trip around and came back to make a loose statement like that."

Lt.-Gen. Sansom had been appointed by the Defence Department to serve as inspector general of reinforcements. He now was overseas and he had reported that the reinforcement situation was satisfactory, said Gen. McNaughton.

Gen. McNaughton said he planned to digest "that speech" and "I serve notice now that the next time I speak I will tear that speech to pieces."

Curiosity Brings M.P. 2,700 Miles to Ottawa

Ottawa, January 31.—(AP)—"Curiosity" brought Joe Dechene, M.P., 2,700 miles from his Athabaskan constituency to attend today's brief prorogation session of Parliament.

"Gosh, I don't know whether I'd like to be quoted or not," Mr. Dechene laughed when asked what had brought him the long distance. "Oh, you can say it was curiosity because that's what it was. You can understand the excitement of politics in Canada these days and how interested we get in anything that looks like a bit of news."

Mr. Dechene, travelling five days and four nights by train from Bonnyville, Alta., 175 miles northwest of Edmonton, came the longest distance of any member attending the session.

Mrs. Cora Casselman, a fellow Liberal, came nearly as far. She represents Edmonton City. There also were members from the Prairies and the Maritimes. Most of the members present, however, were from Ontario and Quebec.

CANADIANS OVERSEAS FEEL McNAUGHTON FAILED THEM IN CRISIS, SAYS BRACKEN

'TRUST BARTERED'

Conservative Leader Says Men Let Down on Reinforcements

CHALLENGE GIVEN KING

Recall of Ralston as Minister Demanded to Speed Overseas Aid

(Special to The Gazette.)

Owen Sound, January 31.—Frustrated and confused by the conviction that Canadians at home are letting them down, and with a great aching bewilderment in their hearts which is nourishing a bitterness more terrible than wounds of war, Canada's men overseas await acceptance of the greatest challenge ever given—the election—that reinforcement needs will be faced as a military problem and not a matter for political expediency, John Bracken declared here today.

Charging that on every hand overseas men and officers of all ranks had felt that Defence Minister A. G. L. McNaughton had "bartered a high trust for an office" and had allowed his high military rank to be used to effect their recall, the Progressive Conservative leader told the biggest political gathering of the Grey North campaign—a gathering which listened silently to his early words and cheered enthusiastically to the conclusion—that the question they must answer was—"do you or do you not approve as Minister of Defence a man whose recent course of action is held in complete contempt by the men overseas?"

Challenging Prime Minister King to recall his treatment of former Defence Minister J. L. Ralston, and for Mr. King and Mr. McNaughton to renew their "complete reversal" of their policy of obtaining men for the forces, Mr. Bracken said they must answer the question posed by Mr. King when he recently asked, "what is to become of our political institutions if the public is given cause to lose faith in the professions of public men and in the solemn pledges of political parties?"

The question, Mr. Bracken said, needed an answer and upon the rostrum of North Grey reposed the duty of providing the most forceful answer "as your boys expect you to give it."

Recalling that he was not given to "strong words" and was usually criticized for understatement, Mr. Bracken said he had been accused of partisanship but today "never standing with men fresh from the silt trenches of Italy bewilderedly charged that the matter of reinforcement was the key to the present electoral situation and cannot be separated from General McNaughton's entry into political life, and said that if opposition to efforts as charged by the King, "then I and all those who stand with me, thank God, are guilty."

CONDEMN POLICIES

The auditorium of the city hall was jammed with standing room hour and a half, as the usually mild-leader spoke from a written manuscript with his voice shaking at times bitter accents he castigated the policies, challenged anyone to compare his often declared policy on

(Continued on Page 7, Col. 1.)

total service with any other leader and vigorously assailed C.C.F. leader M. J. Coldwell for having traversed the same territory overseas and not telling what was "twisting the hearts and minds" of the men overseas.

After talking to men who had made the words Caen and Falaise immortal, to men in Holland, Belgium, Italy, France and England men in billets, hospitals, camps—men with the mud of battle still on them, he had come back "with a message from the very hearts and souls of men who have been sorely tried," Mr. Bracken said. He had gone overseas seeking truth, to learn if Ralston had been wrong. Everywhere he had been told that Ralston was right, that his utterances had been understatement. He had heard from men "with bewildered cynicism and bitterness eating at their hearts, with the definite conviction that Canadians at home were letting them down."

"I heard their story," he said, "and it shocked me. Now if I can suok the people of Canada into a greater sense of realism, and shock the government of Canada out of the political shackles that bind it, I will be doing precisely what our officers and men overseas would want me to do."

In every battalion, company and platoon he had been given the same message. It was not premised on politics, nor were the men now judging Canadians at home by political labels. The judgment of the men overseas was not based on anything anyone said, on what the press reported, on any political creed. It was "based entirely on what Mr. King and General McNaughton planned and are planning."

MESSAGE FROM TROOPS

Mr. Bracken opened by stating that the attacks upon himself by Mr. King in his letters to the electors of Grey North were of little consequence, and since his own public record was well known, that they would not divert him from speaking of the real issues. But he resented the "slur upon my patriotism," not for himself, but for the supporters of his party and the multitudes of Canadians who "find the government's reinforcement policy as unjust as it is ineffective."

He said that he had managed in the last month to visit the troops in action in Europe and Italy, a thing which neither the Prime Minister nor Defence Minister McNaughton had done, and that he wished that Gen. McNaughton had heard them before he undertook his present policies.

"His election to the House of Commons is not necessary to carry on our war effort, as Mr. King, by his several statements, tries to make you believe," he said. "These frantic appeals of the Prime Minister are an admission of impending defeat and an attempt to divert your attention from the real issue. The election of Gen. McNaughton will do no more than confirm in office a man whose policy has failed lamentably to give our men the support they so desperately need."

The men overseas expect the Grey North electors to rebuke the government which left them inadequately supported in the face of German guns, he said. "They expect you to tell the man who now seeks to intimidate you, and who questions your right to express your own opinions as to who shall represent you, that his manpower policy is, in their minds, a delusion and a snare—a compromise between military needs and political expediency."

MEN LOSE FAITH

"I came here to tell you that your men overseas have lost faith in the professions of Mr. King and his Defence Minister," he said, "and that they look with cynical skepticism upon the political manoeuvring of the Prime Minister and Gen. McNaughton before and during the recent special session of Parliament."

"Mr. King is right in one thing—this is no ordinary byelection. But the reasons why are not the reasons he gave you. Let me deal with his charge that I, or anyone else who opposes Gen. McNaughton's election, is impeding the war effort."

"If it be obstructing to stand for and insist upon full support for our boys overseas, if it is political, in the objectionable sense, to stand for and insist on equality of service and of sacrifice in time of war, then I and all who stand with me, thank God, can plead guilty to both."

He said throughout his visit to the fronts he had talked with Canadian servicemen of all ranks and found "bewildered cynicism and bitterness" and that if his own statements shocked the Canadian government "out of the political shackles which bind it," that he would be doing what the soldiers want him to do.

"I say, without fear of contradiction, that the government's reinforcement plans, which Gen. McNaughton has been painting in such bright colors, are wholly inadequate to meet the conditions of active warfare," he stated. "They meet the conditions of non-activity, but nothing more. They left our men fighting an unequal battle, when some battalions were reduced from four companies to three and some-times two."

Emphasizing that the present reinforcement policy would mean that Canadian soldiers will fight again without reinforcements, when Canadian army activity is renewed for any length of time, he continued:

"And shocking though the story may be to you, as it was to me, those men have the definite conviction that the Canadians at home are letting them down. They know that at home they could not win hockey games with only four men on the ice, and they feel they are unnecessarily handicapped when they cannot be sure of a full team in battle."

SOLDIERS SHOCKED

Mr. Bracken said he was standing with Canadian soldiers after they came out of their silt trenches in Italy just as the news came through that 6,300 of the Home Defence men notified for overseas service were absent without leave. He asked his audience to picture their feelings on "receiving such news."

"About one thing the men overseas are in light agreement," he continued. "Gen. McNaughton left them under a cloud, but he continued to hold their affection and confidence which he had enjoyed while he led them as a soldier; but for his action in supplanting Ralston, on this issue so vital to them, most of them hold him in utter contempt."

"Their judgment is based entirely

upon what Mr. King and Gen. McNaughton planned and are planning, they feel that, in the minimum of reinforcements planned for, they have been betrayed, and that the Defence Minister allowed his high military rank to be used to effect that betrayal."

"Let there be no doubt about this—there is a very general feeling that, by reason of the King-McNaughton plan, the men have been let down by their government. What is worse, they feel that the people of Canada have been all too complacent in letting the government get away with its two-army plan."

He asked the audience how it would feel in the place of the soldiers to be told by the government that it would send men "to the limit of your casualties and no more," and that the figures had to be limited within the figures of 16,000 Home Defence men, 6,300 of whom had already disappeared?

HALF-BAKED MEASURES

"The half-baked measures of Gen. McNaughton and Mr. King have carried the government from failure to tragedy and ridicule," said Mr. Bracken. "Don't let anybody tell you that Gen. McNaughton's election and the continuation of that niggardly policy would carry a message of comfort to you boys."

"On the contrary, the best new that could go overseas to you troops who still have to fight the rebuke to such a policy, and to the man who, having had their confidence, bartered that high trust for an office that Ralston had ably and honorably filled, and lent his support to a politically expedient but totally inadequate policy."

He insisted that the morale of the men overseas was not shaken by events in Canada. But worse than shaken morale was "the great aching confusion in their hearts about what this nation feels toward them—a bewilderment which is nourishing bitterness more terrible than the wounds of war for the future of these young men and for the future domestic peace of the land they hope to come back to."

The way to restore their faith would be to wipe out the sordid record of half-measures. For them the issue of the election is "Is Canada to continue the farce of two armies—one to fight and one to stay at home? Or are we to cut out that hypocrisy and make one part of the other, as reinforcements without further evasion?"

He disputed the Prime Minister's assertion that the defeat of Gen. McNaughton would be partisan obstruction of the war effort. "I never felt less like a partisan in my life," he said. "No man who has seen what I have seen could think that partisan politics counted for very much in this matter. And I don't think it is necessary to remind you who has played politics with this issue for the last 25 years, and where the partisanship comes from."

NO TIME FOR POLITICS

Pointing out his own record on manpower as clear from the beginning, he said he had differed with Mr. King on the necessity for a plebiscite, feeling after Dunkerque that the safety of the state transcended all matters. He had also differed about running the war as a "party affair" and in Manitoba formed a non-partisan government for the war's duration. The Manitoba government under his premiership had passed a resolution favoring total mobilization for war. Two years ago the Progressive Conservative party had advocated compulsory selective service as the fairest method.

He recalled the reinforcement crisis which has led to the resignation of Mr. Ralston as Defence Minister after his overseas trip of investigation, and that Gen. McNaughton had taken office in the belief he could obtain reinforcements by the voluntary method, adding "Don't forget that. It is the key to the present situation, and cannot be separated for any discussion of Gen. McNaughton's entry into political life and the developments since that time."

After the special session of Parliament, the Defence Minister said "he was no longer concerned about the shortage of reinforcements, but only with the shortage of war supplies," in a statement at Camp Borden early in January, said Mr. Bracken. But even at that time the Defence Minister was using censorship to conceal that 6,300 men had failed to report to their units after embarkation leave, and "disclosure of this vital information had to be forced by the press."

"The question of reinforcements is no matter of arithmetic," he said. "We cannot continue to limp along on a haphazard system of what has been well described as 'budgeting for death.'"

"The question, I submit, is whether or not you would endorse as Minister of National Defence a man who manipulated censorship to hide from you facts that might embarrass him? Do you, or do you not approve as Minister of Defence a man who told you and the people of Canada that unless you are prepared to follow his leader, you should hold your tongues? Do you or do you not approve as Minister of Defence a man whose recent course of action is held in complete contempt by the men overseas?"

Mr. King's open letter was an "admission of defeat," and a "shameless attempt" to gain an acclamation for the Defence Minister, he said. To do that he had attempted to link the Progressive Conservatives and the C.C.F. together. Mr. Bracken pointed to the wartime record of M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, as a basis for refuting this.

C.C.F. WAR RECORD

When war broke out, he said, Mr. Coldwell had proclaimed in Parliament that Canada should only send economic aid to Britain, and must not include conscription of

Bumper Meeting Greet Bracken; Conservative Hopes Skyrocketing

By JAMES MACKENZIE FYFE
(Gazette Staff Writer)

manpower or the sending of an expeditionary force. At the time of Dunkerque, Mr. Coldwell had restated the C.C.F. opposition to sending even volunteers overseas.

When Mr. Coldwell had come back from overseas last October, at the height of the reinforcement crisis, he had first evaded an answer when asked his opinion on the situation overseas. Mr. Bracken continued. Later he quoted an officer that "reinforcements were satisfactory." But if Mr. Coldwell had talked to soldiers and not discovered their feelings about the lack of reinforcements, he continued, "then he must have been both deaf and blind." And if he did believe reinforcements were needed and stayed silent, then he was "guilty of playing politics in a matter where human lives were at stake."

"If you defeat Gen. McNaughton, you thus notify the government that Canada's verdict must be: One general service army for Canada and discontinuance of discrimination and indirect backdoor conscription.

"If you defeat Gen. McNaughton and elect Garfield Case, you also endorse Col. Ralston, the one great Canadian Liberal of his generation who had the courage to state the issue as he saw it and stick to his guns, at the cost of his public office, and the private rebuke of some of his political friends.

"If you defeat McNaughton, you also let the government know that there is only one basis on which a united nation can be built, and that basis is one national standard of sacrifice and duty. In a word, the real basis of national unity is justice—the acceptance of equal responsibility and equal sacrifice in time of war, as well as in time of peace."

He said that whether the fighting in Europe lasts a week or for many months, it was still important to show the men overseas that Canada would not let them down. Then he continued:

"I have but one thing more to say in closing—that is, that I cannot feel any twinge of conscience that the decision in Grey North might bring on a general election."

"I will not take second place to the Prime Minister or anyone else in my desire to see an immediate wartime election avoided. I am quite as conscious as he of what political controversy can mean."

SAYS KING TO BLAME

"But why did Mr. King not think he was obstructing the war effort when, for six long weeks, he kept this nation in turmoil and anxiety while seeking to avoid the thing which the lives of our troops demanded he do? Mr. King, and he alone, is responsible for this by-election; and he is the lone creator of whatever policies fret him now."

"But I suggest there is no need of an immediate election, as there was no need of a by-election. If you defeat McNaughton, Prime Minister King will bring Mr. Ralston back as his Defence Minister. The troops have confidence in this man, and the Canadian people have confidence in him."

"All that is required of Mr. King is that he leave Col. Ralston free to take the action which he recommended three months ago, should he be taken back. So don't let yourselves be fooled by Mr. King's pretence that, Gen. McNaughton must be elected if our men overseas are to be reinforced. Does he really mean to suggest that if Gen. McNaughton is defeated, this won't be done? Such a suggestion is preposterous."

"No, rest assured of this—you will do far more to assure the necessary reinforcements for our men overseas if you send Gen. McNaughton back home, and let Col. Ralston finish the job."

Mr. Bracken said that the election of Mr. Case would not change the government. But it would tell the government that the people of Canada want a better reinforcement policy.

"On the other hand, if you elect McNaughton, you will tend to fasten upon this nation a policy which, for all time in the future, will leave upon your children and your children's children, an unfair share of the blood cost of the war," he said. "You will lay the basis for such disunity as will split this nation from end to end in civil strife."

He closed with an appeal to voters "to forget past party associations," and to vote with "the thought of what Canada owes her gallant fighting men overseas."

Owen Sound January 31.—John Bracken's appearance here this afternoon has given the Progressive Conservative party's campaign the shot in the arm it has been needing for the past week. It will be no secret to the readers of these dispatches that the party men here have been depressed at its condition. It can be said with certainty that as a result of the rally held in the town hall their hopes are now bounding sky high. Whether the tide has been turned is another matter, but there is real life in the campaign at last. The Progressive Conservative leader's meeting was a whacking success, so much so that it has surprised all concerned.

Gordon Graydon and Gen. McNaughton have filled the town hall. John Bracken packed it. For the first time in the course of the parties' campaign here the crackle of political tenseness is now to be felt in the air. It was felt in the hall this afternoon, and the audience let itself go in a demonstration that this bemused observer had felt sure would never be witnessed in this community of undemonstrative people. Mr. Bracken was well received, he spoke well—better than usual, those who are

familiar with his platform style say—and he was cheered at the end with the kind of solid warmth that makes politicians grin like Cheshire cats.

Mr. Bracken's arrival has taken a great load off the shoulders of Garfield Case, the party's candidate. Mr. Case has been speaking twice a day and sometimes more for over a month, and it is only natural that he has been slowing up. John Bracken may carry him over the hump; at least he has arrived at the strategic moment.

Neither Mr. Graydon nor Gen. McNaughton has faced such a tight-packed assembly as greeted Mr. Bracken but it must be remembered that neither of the former gentlemen is the leader of his party, a fact which ought not to be discounted. The hall was jammed. The citizenry filled the standing room, sat on the gallery stairs and lined the walls, and they punctuated the speech with generous applause, which by the way, provides a useful guide to what party followers here are thinking.

Mr. Bracken concluded his reference to

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As is your vision, so is your task. Be true to it.
—Rev. R. J. Campbell.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1.

BRACKEN AFFIRMS GREY NORTH ISSUE.

A clear and forceful answer to the petulant insistence of the Prime Minister that the Grey North by-election was no more than a temporary inconvenience to find his Defence Minister a seat in the House of Commons, was given in the Owen Sound address yesterday of Mr. John Bracken, national leader of the Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. King has contended that the by-election involved no real issue of Government policy or question of public acceptance of the Government candidate, General McNaughton. Therefore, the Prime Minister has reasoned in his own peculiar way, the entry of opposition candidates and particularly the prospect that the General may not be returned reflects only the venomous desire of opposition parties to obstruct and embarrass the Government politically.

With this view Mr. Bracken emphatically differed, and advanced a broader, contrary concept of the by-election's significance. It is a concept so well-founded factually and so solidly based on rational political analysis of all the circumstances as to impress Mr. Bracken's earnest conviction upon all thinking citizens, both in Grey North and throughout the rest of the country. The issues he defined as at stake in the election strike to the fundamentals of implementing the people's will through the democratic process, and the even more vital question of giving the fullest possible support to Canada's fighting men overseas.

The basic issue as Mr. Bracken sees it is "approval or rejection of the King-McNaughton formula for partial conscription." This policy is symbolized by and inseparable from General McNaughton. He and the policy are interchangeable reflections of the forced and still reluctant conversion of the Government from an adamant stand for no conscription whatever.

The challenge to the General's election and his possible defeat are equally symbols of the deep rooted, widespread protest against the devious compromises and the contradictions of partial conscription. They represent the persistent question in the public mind of that policy's adequacy to provide the required replenishment of either fighting strength or morale.

This inescapable import of the by-election is vastly more important and more real than finding General McNaughton a Parliamentary seat from which he can discuss and defend a policy in which he only half believes. As Mr. Bracken suggests, the General's election is hardly necessary to carry on the war effort, and he could properly be replaced by Col. the Hon. J. L. Ralston, whose resignation paved the way for the General's appointment to the Defence portfolio.

Mr. Bracken rightly brought out that the Grey North contest had even greater significance than whether or not the Government's policy was to receive domestic endorsement. The verdict, he declared, would be a sign to the men overseas of how their fellow citizens at home regard the Government's political expediency in continuing the two-army system, with only a grudging, limited modification.

From first-hand, recent contact with the troops on the fighting fronts—which is more than Mr. King or General McNaughton have had—Mr. Bracken declared that the fighting men feel that the Government has definitely "let them down" with reinforcement plans "wholly inadequate to meet the conditions of active warfare." That there is substantial foundation for his summation of overseas opinion is evidenced by the flood of letters expressing similar views which have flowed back to friends and relatives at home from members of the forces.

Whether they act upon it or not, the electors of Grey North cannot ignore the challenge thrust upon them by Mr. Bracken. They cannot escape the significance attached to how they will vote by Canadian soldiers in action, who wait to see whether the people of this country complacently accept the Government policy of catch-as-catch-can reinforcements or are ready to back up the troops in the line to the limit.

MR. KING'S WAR OF NERVES.

It would have been much better if the session of Parliament held yesterday had not been held at all. It accomplished nothing in itself, and revealed nothing of any value with regard to the policies of the future. The Speech from the Throne, though unusually long, did little more than review the facts of the Government's legislative past. For all that it contained, it might have been read at any time. There was certainly no reason why Parliament should have been specially assembled yesterday to hear it. The announcement that a new session of Parliament will be held on February 28 is similarly pointless. Such an announcement could also have been made by Mr. King without calling Parliament together. Indeed, if a session is actually to be held on February 28, yesterday's session becomes all the more unnecessary. But, further, there is no fixed certainty even about this date. Mr. King may still, at his own will, advance the time or extend it.

Yesterday's session, however, was worse than merely negative. It will serve greatly to increase that day-to-day uncertainty which it has been the policy of the Government to maintain. The Prime Minister, indeed, seems to have undertaken to wage a sort of war of nerves upon the public, not only keeping his own counsel, but deliberately mystifying his actions. Ever since he decided to change defence ministers in mid-stream, and thereby placed himself under the necessity of getting his new minister elected, he has kept not only the electors of Grey North, but the Canadian people generally in profound ignorance and perplexity concerning his intentions. This campaign has been waged not only by keeping silent upon critical issues, but by actually hinting about possible lines of action, though hinting in such a way as always to fall short of any real commitment. Nevertheless, one of these hints was sufficiently strong to make the attendance of members at yesterday's session unexpectedly large. But any anticipations of information Mr. King's words had created in these members were certainly disappointed. For they were sent empty away.

This procedure is certainly placing a strain upon public patience no less than upon public confidence. It was undoubtedly hoped by many that the ordeal through which the Government went during the disclosures of last November would give it a greater appreciation of the value of frankness. Instead, this ordeal seems only to have driven it to seek a deeper shelter in its devious ways. It appears, in fact, to have suffered a diminution of even such moderate frankness as it formerly possessed. Its deviousness was always characteristic; it is now becoming chronic.

But the core of public resentment which this policy is forming comes not only from the policy itself, but from the manner in which the Government pictures its own actions. For Mr. King has described the opposition in Grey North as "unwarranted and unworthy" because the Government is "giving its undivided attention and devoting its whole energies to the prosecution of the war effort." If the Government were giving its undivided attention and devoting its whole energies to the prosecution of the war effort it would be so deeply rooted in public confidence as to have no need for adopting the arbitrary obscurities with which it now enwraps itself.

Indeed, the very essence of the public complaint at the present hour is that this country is without a Government that can supply the inspiration of a wholly concentrated leadership. For these are times of grief and tragedy, of strain and effort, of apprehensions and anxieties. Such times demand a leadership that is not cautious but courageous, not suspicious but spacious, not concealing but candid. Such qualities would be the reasonable minimum for any wartime government. But they are surely not the qualities which conspicuously adorn the present administration.

The Prime Minister no doubt has his own objectives and purposes in making his secrets and fostering his uncertainties. But it is not easy to see how they are effectively related to the prosecution of the war effort of the country. It is understandable that a government should be secretive towards the nation's enemies. But it is difficult to understand why it should be secretive towards the nation which serves in war and ought to be served by its wartime government.

An eminent British statesman of other years once used words that have a penetrating application to our present circumstances. "I do not like the secrets of governments," he said. "For governments rarely seek to conceal the good things of their record. The secrets of governments are all too commonly their failures and their fears."

LETTERS FROM READERS

First Things First

Sir,—To my astonishment, I was told that a letter which you were good enough to publish recently has "tagged me as a Liberal" despite the fact that I said clearly, "As a Conservative, I would have given General McNaughton an acclamation."

I do not consider this an endorsement of the King policy. I was endorsing the fact that the job represented by the man—Minister of National Defence—was above party politics in the grave situation which confronted us. The main idea still is—or is it?—to guarantee quick despatch of a steady flow of trained soldiers to active duty. We wasted valuable weeks of political manoeuvring as it was. If it is necessary to have the Minister of National Defence in the House, let's have him there.

To allude again to the fact that only sheer political manipulation by the King government placed the country in the position where it was necessary to do this, when Colonel Ralston was already there doing a better job, to my mind merely confirms my stand. I still insist that the situation created by the Liberals, does not justify party politics, until the grave situation is under control. . . . Ah! by all means, when we are assured that the draft situation is taken care of, even by half-baked "non-compulsory conscription," then we can go to town!

Can any thinking person agree with and tolerate a government that

creates a situation such as exists today in our "manpower muddle?" With only 10,000 out of an army of 60,000 odd men supposedly ready for service, and of this 10,000 nearly half defying recognized authority? Is not the Liberal party entirely responsible for this situation—all in the name of "unity"—or politics?

First things first, please, gentlemen.

CYRIL D. SAVAGE,
Montreal, January 30.

Importance Of Grey North Vote Stressed

Electors Told Riding Faces Great Challenge

OWEN SOUND, Ont., Feb. 1 — (C.P.) — By-election talk seethed through the riding of Grey North today from the streets and meeting places of Owen Sound to the back concessions of the constituency.

The talk among the constituents everywhere is of little else than their by-election as voting day Feb. 5 draws near—a by-election which, in the words of one partisan speaker gave Grey North "the greatest duty and the greatest challenge ever imposed on any single electoral constituency since Confederation."

To outsiders visiting the constituency the voters don't seem to have been greatly moved by the election oratory of the past month. But from their conversation there can be no doubt of their interest in the by-election brought to Grey North by the Government's efforts to gain a Commons seat for Hon. A. G. L. McNaughton, Defence Minister.

The promise was for an even greater flow of oratory with increasing bite in it in the few days left before balloting.

McNaughton Speaks

Last night Gen. McNaughton, speaking at Meaford, served notice that the next time he spoke he would "tear to pieces" the statement yesterday by the Progressive-Conservative leader John Bracken that overseas reinforcements were inadequate.

Gen. McNaughton speaks tonight at Maxwell and Walters Falls. The C.C.F. candidate, Air Vice-Marshal A. E. Godfrey speaks at Owen Sound on the same platform with M. J. Coldwell, his party leader, and Hon. John Sturdy, reconstruction minister in Saskatchewan's C.C.F. Government.

Mr. Bracken and the Conservative candidate, Garfield Case, speak at Meaford. Mr. Godfrey will also speak at Clarksburg with Edward Joliffe, Ontario C.C.F. leader and J. W. Noseworthy, C.C.F. Member of Parliament for York South.

Almost as great a factor as the speeches in this campaign has been the weather. It has been changeable, mild for a few days, cold for a few days and with several heavy snow storms cutting down attendance at political meetings.

Voting Hinges on Weather

One of the worst storms of the winter blew across the constituency only last night. Main highways, however, have been open to night and day. Back roads held heavy going even for cutters.

Some meetings have been large and others not much more than small town and village gatherings with people clustering around well-stoked box stoves.

the Government reinforcement plan on the basis of his personal survey of the battlefronts, just completed. In the evening, Gen. McNaughton termed Mr. Bracken "no authority on these matters" and said the Progressive-Conservative leader's statement about inadequate reinforcements was "loose."

Mr. Joliffe, speaking at Owen Sound, said the only section of the labor movement supporting Gen. McNaughton was the Communist section. The vast majority of labor in Grey North supported the C.C.F. and at Kimberley Mr. Godfrey spoke out for the "old sweats" of 1913 and the "veterans of 1945," saying the Government had no plan to ensure work for them.

BRACKEN CLAIM CALLED FALSE BY McNAUGHTON

Short Visit to Front Not Enough to Form Valuable Opinion; Careless Statements Rapped

Owen Sound, February 1.—(C)—Defence Minister McNaughton said today that if reports of a speech John Bracken, Progressive Conservative leader, made here yesterday were correct, "Then I can only say that we have had another example of the utter disregard for truth which characterized his party in their endeavor to bewilder and mislead the public of Canada about the vital question of reinforcements for the Canadian Army overseas."

(Mr. Bracken told a political rally in Owen Sound yesterday that "I say without fear of contradiction that the government's reinforcement plans, which Gen. McNaughton has been painting in such bright colors, are wholly inadequate to meet the conditions of active warfare. They met the conditions of nonactivity but nothing more.")

In a 1,200-word prepared statement the government candidate in the Grey North byelection of next Monday said that his own statements on reinforcements were "as accurate and correct as highly experienced and responsible officers could make them."

"Against this, John Bracken asks the people of Canada to set opinions which he voices and which he claims to have formed as a result of a brief visit to our unit overseas."

"I say that no man, however skilled and well-informed he might be, could form an opinion of real value in the time and under the conditions of his visit. He was away from Canada for less than a month in all, and this includes his time in transit and his visits to London and Paris and elsewhere."

"In making the statement he has given, he has either misled himself or he has surrendered himself in an attempt to develop and exploit a situation for what he may think to be an advantage to his political party in their unscrupulous attack on the government of this country."

"At the very least, he has been careless of the good name of Canada's fighting forces overseas. He has been careless in carrying comfort to the enemy; he has been careless of the very serious consequences to the magnificent war effort of Canada and to the discipline of our armed forces which might result if his careless words and statements might come to be believed. Fortunately they will not, for they convey their condemnation in every line of the statement he has made."

Gen. McNaughton said his own statements on reinforcements have been checked for accuracy by the officers responsible for their compilation, and were based on the latest cable reports received from the front through the formations and establishments set up to train and hold and move reinforcements forward as required.

Gen. McNaughton said these were the facts of the reinforcement issue.

"In the battles which followed D-Day (June 6 1944) the total of casualties sustained by the Canadian Army in Europe were substantial as had been estimated by the officers charged with responsibility for making these forecasts and providing replacements."

"In the infantry, the casualties were heavier than had been provided for. In all other arms, they were less. In consequence, there developed a situation in which, unless action was taken promptly, there was a danger that a shortage in infantry reinforcements would come about late in January or early February 1945."

"This was recognized and in addition to the normal flow of reinforcements which had been previously arranged, my predecessor in the office of minister of national defence arranged first, that the surplus of men available in other arms, should be remustered for infantry; second, that a bloc of some 4,000 additional men should be sent over from Canada in November and December 1944. He also asked that some 15,000 additional men should be made available."

"When the responsibility passed to my shoulders, I took care to maintain to the full the provisions already made in order to be sure that the numbers were fully up to the requirements and I added some more over what the staff had advised were necessary."

"The additional numbers were to go forward in December, January and the three succeeding months."

"I repeat again what I have said many times before, that this program covering the normal and additional provision has been adhered to. The numbers dispatched overseas and safely arrived in the United Kingdom are up to date, and there is every reason to be confident that the following dispatches will be made as planned."

"In contrast, let me read the statement reported to have been made by John Bracken:

"I say without fear of contradiction that the government's reinforcement plans, which Gen. McNaughton has been painting in such bright colors, seem wholly inadequate to meet the conditions of active warfare. They met the conditions of non-activity but nothing more."

STATEMENT IS FALSE.

"I say to John Bracken, if these be his words, that his statement is false. I say to him that in making it he places himself in contradiction to the experienced and reliable staffs of our Canadian Army overseas and the men most closely concerned who prepared the plans which now are being carried out and which include provision for the battles which are to be expected."

Gen. McNaughton said that Mr. Bracken, not content with dealing with the situation of reinforcements, "objectively as he thinks it might be, has seen fit to cast aspersions on my own character."

"He said I left the Canadian Army under a cloud," said Gen. McNaughton. "I left the Canadian Army, and not by my own desire or will. I have been very careful that this should be understood by all insofar as it lay within my power to make the situation known."

"I am well aware that it does not lie with me to give the details at this time, and so I have to wait until later on; but I have seen to it that every letter and document, every telegram and memorandum, which has any bearing on this matter has been placed with those who will write the history of Canada's part in this war. For my part there is no restriction on their publication, and so all I can do is to wait until the truth is given out it will be some day."

Gen. McNaughton said Mr. Bracken had come into the riding and now nothing more would be heard from Garfield Case, the Progressive Conservative candidate.

"The Progressive Conservatives have joined in this matter as a party and they and their party press continue in their careless, malicious statements in an attempt to belud the issue."

"I say to them that their attempt to destroy the government of this country—to throw us back into the hands of reactionaries—to set back the prospects of ordered progress for our people—shall fail. There are countless thousands of honest citizens in this country who have seen through their conspiracy and plot."

Draftees Tossed Rifles in Ocean On Way Overseas, Bracken Asserts

Menford, Ont., February 1.—(C)—John Bracken, Progressive Conservative Party leader, in a by-election speech here tonight called on Defence Minister McNaughton to tell the whole story about the sending of Home Defence Troops overseas recently as reinforcements.

Mr. Bracken deviated from his prepared text to ask that Gen. McNaughton, Liberal candidate in the February 5 Grey North byelection, reveal how the Home Defence troops had thrown rifles and ammunition overboard while on their way overseas.

"Let Gen. McNaughton tell you about these who were sent over," he said. "Let him tell you what happened. Let him tell you the whole sordid story."

"Let him tell you what happened on troop ships carrying draftees overseas."

"Let him tell you why some of these men arrived in Britain without rifles which they are expected to have."

Mr. Bracken asked that Gen. McNaughton show "that a single reinforcement demand sent from Canadian Military Headquarters at London to the department of National Defence since he became minister has been met to the extent requested."

Mr. Bracken issued the challenge in a speech prepared for delivery at a political rally for Garfield Case, Progressive Conservative candidate in the Grey North byelection of February 5. Gen. McNaughton is the government candidate.

Mr. Bracken, who recently returned from a tour of the war theatres said his "message tonight from the boys overseas is the same as I gave yesterday."

(In a speech at Owen Sound yesterday, Mr. Bracken stated: "I say without fear of contradiction that the government's reinforcement plans, which Gen. McNaughton has been painting in such bright colors, seem wholly inadequate to meet the conditions of active warfare. They met the conditions of non-activity but nothing more.")

(Gen. McNaughton challenged that statement today and said: "I say to John Bracken, if these be his words, that his statement is false. I say to him that in making it he places himself in contradiction to the experienced and reliable staffs of our Canadian Army Overseas—the men most closely concerned who prepared the plans which now are being carried out and which include the provision for the battles which are to be expected.")

Speaking in the town hall here, Mr. Bracken said that the issue in Grey North is still clear—it is reinforcements, full reinforcements for the men overseas.

"They know and you know that they are not getting them," under the King-McNaughton plan."

"Gen. McNaughton has said I am not an authority on reinforcements," said Mr. Bracken. "But I have talked to men who are military experts. I have talked to men in the ranks, to N.C.O.'s to junior officers, to field officers, and the tale they tell me is the message I brought and bring to you."

"I am carrying their message. Gen. McNaughton is carrying a political message to defend Mr. King's political formula which has

caused so much division and disunity in this nation."

"These men (overseas) told me that they have been short of reinforcements for months and told me of men going back into the line after being wounded, once twice or even three times, without adequate periods of rest and recuperation, because of the failure of the government to meet the minimum reinforcement requirements."

Mr. Bracken said he was not a military expert, but Col. J. L. Ralston, former defence minister, was an expert who had charge of the Defence Department for five years.

"Col. Ralston is at least as competent as Gen. McNaughton in assessing a reinforcement situation. Col. Ralston returned from a visit with the troops overseas. I visited the same areas he did. I covered the same ground that he did. What was Col. Ralston's report? Col. Ralston said that the situation was acute."

"He recommended to the government that the entire Home Defence Army be made available for reinforcement for the men in the line. Will Gen. McNaughton say that Col. Ralston does not know what he is talking about? Will Gen. McNaughton say that Col. Ralston's report is completely devoid of truth?"

Gen. McNaughton still would have you believe that reinforcements are adequate. I challenge him tonight to show that a single reinforcement demand sent from Canadian Military Headquarters at London to the Department of National Defence since he became minister, has been met to the extent requested."

Mr. Bracken called on Gen. McNaughton to tell the whole story about the sending of Home Defence Troops overseas recently as reinforcements.

"Let Gen. McNaughton tell you about these who were sent over," said Mr. Bracken. "Let him tell you what happened. Let him tell you the whole sordid story. Let him tell you what happened on troop ships carrying draftees overseas. Let him tell you why some of these men arrived in Britain without rifles which they are expected to have."

'Switching' in Parties Rapped by Jolliffe

Clarksburg, Ont., February 1.—(C)—E. B. Jolliffe, leader of the C.C.F. in the Ontario legislature, said tonight "heaven help this country if its going to be led by politicians who are always switching their politics in order to gain high office."

He made the statement in a speech prepared for delivery at a political rally organized for Air Vice-Marshal A. E. Godfrey, C.C.F. candidate in the Grey North byelection February 5.

"Here in Grey North we have the ridiculous spectacle of the government candidate (Defence Minister McNaughton), a former supporter of R. B. Bennett, campaigning with the support of prominent Communists. And welcoming it. And the Tory candidate (Garfield Case), a former Liberal, progressive and what-have-you, supported by John Bracken, another ex-Liberal who helped Mackenzie King to win the election of 1935."

Then, he said, Mr. Bracken, leader of the Progressive Conservative party, "has the nerve to suggest that the question in the byelection is the integrity of political leaders."

Bracken Fires Campaign Afresh In Speech Angering McNaughton

By JAMES MACKENZIE FYFE
(Gazette Staff Writer.)

Owen Sound, February 1.—The speech of John Bracken yesterday continued to reverberate throughout Grey North today. It has struck fire into the campaign. Whether it is the spark that will revitalize the Progressive Conservative effort to ultimate victory is yet to be seen. But it has produced some notable results in short order.

What has happened is that John Bracken and Gen. McNaughton will now fight the campaign between them on the reinforcement issue. The challenge has already been taken up by the Liberal candidate, who promised last evening at Meaford to tear to pieces the Conservative leader's statement after he had had an opportunity of studying it. He has had that opportunity, and this evening over the radio he told the voters that John Bracken's statement is false. This, it may be judged, is precisely the result the Progressive Conservative strategists had looked for, and it must therefore be taken for granted that Mr. Bracken has enough ammunition left to keep firing at the general until the end of the campaign.

The jockeying for position is apparent to observers here. Each side is measuring his opponent and calculating the precise moment when the final blow should be landed to produce the desired effect upon the electorate. Political broadcasting comes to an end at midnight on Friday, and it is understood

that the Conservatives have the last word on the radio.

Mr. Bracken's emergence here as the dominant figure in the party's campaign has the added result of setting W. Garfield Case, the Conservative candidate, somewhat in the background. This is not an unmixed blessing for the party. Mr. Case's strenuous speaking campaign may now be curtailed, which will allow him the opportunity of attending to his personal organizational and social work in the riding which of necessity he has been obliged to neglect. Oratory may now give way to glad-handing.

Another consideration arising out of the altered circumstances here is that the hammer-and-tongs nature of the fight at the last minute between the two old parties will tend to advance the cause of the third, and it may be expected that the C.C.F. will take the greatest political advantage of the situation at their meeting here tonight. Nothing would please the C.C.F. better than to have their rivals kill each other off. But in any event their strength here should not be underestimated.

Those who attended Gen. McNaughton's meeting last night in Meaford report that he showed the first flash of anger in his appearances here when he referred to Mr. Bracken's address. Certainly he spoke angrily enough this evening. As was foreseen, he declared that

no man could form an opinion of real value on the reinforcement situation on a visit of less than a month to the fighting fronts. He repeated that the reinforcement program had been adhered to and that Mr. Bracken is not speaking the truth when he says that the government's reinforcement plans seem wholly inadequate. He declared that the details of the circumstances leading up to his departure from the army are not within his power to make public and that he must wait until the day "the truth is given out." And in conclusion he declared that the Progressive Conservatives have joined in this matter as a party, and they and their party press continue in their careless, malicious statements in an attempt to belittle the issue. Their attempt to destroy the government of this country, he said, "to throw us back into the hands of reactionaries—shall fail."

The reply to this, it may confidently be expected, will be a ready admission from Mr. Bracken that he is no military expert, but that he was on the scene, no later than last week, while the man who denies what he saw and heard was in Ottawa. If, as is likely, he produces evidence to substantiate his charges, the general will be unable to ignore it and he in turn will be obliged to produce further figures. Where it will end this correspondence would not hazard a guess, but he suspects that there is more disturbing news of reinforcement situation in store for the Canadian people. In the process the truth may finally be arrived at, but it is a somewhat frightening one to watch.

The campaign has entered a stage of bitterness that was hardly foreseen last week. Its repercussions in Ottawa must surely be deepening and eyes must be turning to the march of the far greater events to which the happenings in this peaceful valley are not unrelated.

What has been taking place here until John Bracken arrived yesterday was that both the Liberals and the Conservatives were getting nowhere fast. Bracken came in fighting and now the gloves are off. From now on it is no holds barred.

4,631 Army Absentees Still Unaccounted For

Ottawa, February 1.—The Defence Department announced tonight that the number of home defence troops destined as reinforcements overseas who went absent without leave had been reduced from 6,300 to 4,631. The brief 30-word statement did not say whether the 1,669 absences had been rounded up by land and military police, or whether they had reported voluntarily to authorities. There was no elaboration available immediately from Defence Department sources.

Defence Minister McNaughton, in announcing arrival overseas January 20 of 8,300 home defence troops, disclosed that 6,300 of 1,000 men who overstayed their embarkation leave during the Christmas and New Year's holidays, still were at large.

He said they would be classed as deserters after they had been absent a total of 21 days, but defence authorities have made no statement as to whether any or all of them have been so classed. There also has been no indication whether any of these men were general service personnel who were recent converts from the home defence army.

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Only free people can hold their purpose and their honor steady to a common end, and prefer the interest of mankind to any narrow interest of their own.
—Woodrow Wilson.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

WHAT! ANOTHER CONSPIRACY?

The extravagant resentment of criticism, which has characterized Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton ever since he entered political life as Col. J. L. Ralston's successor, was revealed to an exceptionally painful extent in the statement he issued yesterday in regard to Mr. John Bracken's recent speech at Owen Sound.

Indeed, Gen. McNaughton's censure of Mr. Bracken was practically unlimited. According to Gen. McNaughton, the national leader of the Progressive Conservative Party has been careless of the good name of Canada's fighting forces overseas. He has been careless in carrying comfort to the enemy. He has been careless of the very serious consequences of his words to the magnificent war effort of Canada. The discipline of the armed forces is also likely to be undermined by what Mr. Bracken has said. Despite his own full condemnation, Gen. McNaughton is convinced Mr. Bracken's words carry their own condemnation in every line.

It might well be asked what Mr. Bracken has said to deserve or to provoke a reaction so remarkably unrestrained. The words to which Gen. McNaughton refers read as follows:

"I say without fear of contradiction that the Government's reinforcement plans, which Gen. McNaughton has been painting in such bright colors, are wholly inadequate to meet the conditions of active warfare. They met the condition of non-activity but nothing more."

It will be plainly seen that Mr. Bracken was speaking of Gen. McNaughton's plans particularly as they relate to the future, in the conviction that these plans are inadequate. In the course of his reply, Gen. McNaughton cited the record of his brief tenure of office and declared his assurance that this record will be maintained.

late to the future, in the conviction that these plans are inadequate. In the course of his reply, Gen. McNaughton cited the record of his brief tenure of office and declared his assurance that this record will be maintained.

But it is of the very essence of the present question to doubt whether it will be maintained. Arguments from past accomplishments to future prospects have rarely been less justified than in this instance. For the conditions the General faces in the future are not the same as those of the recent past. When Gen. McNaughton assumed office he found that his predecessor had left for him a carefully prepared and detailed plan for the use as overseas reinforcements of some 4,500 General Service men who had been painfully combed together from the military stations of this country. It is extremely questionable whether this type of remustering can be carried much further.

Then there were the 16,000 Home Defence troops sufficiently trained to be used as infantry reinforcements, and which Col. Ralston planned to send over in two instalments, the first half to be overseas early in January and the second half early in February. When Gen. McNaughton wished to secure a certain number from these troops, he was able to call twice the number he needed, believing that one half would not report for duty. He is not now in that convenient position. According to his own statement of less than two weeks ago, some 6,300 of these men were unaccounted for. Obviously his further reinforcements from this source will have to be recovered by police action before the process of dispatching them overseas can even begin.

McNaughton Not to Be Trusted With Our Army, Con Smythe Says

If the people of Grey North are told the facts about Gen. McNaughton they have enough common sense to "throw him out" for any one of a number of reasons, Maj. Con Smythe, M.C., national leader of the overseas reinforcement question to a head when he returned a casualty last fall, said in an interview here yesterday.

Reviewing the acting defence minister's actions since he returned to Canada, and "speaking not as a soldier or a politician but as a citizen of Canada," he said it was his opinion that "Gen. McNaughton should not be trusted with the Canadian Army."

He recalled three facts which he thought should condemn Gen. McNaughton in the Ontario byelection which has entered its final week of campaigning—three facts any one of which he felt should disqualify Gen. McNaughton for the post of defence minister.

"Shortly before he took over the job from Col. Ralston, Gen. McNaughton said in a press interview that he had been away from the front too long to know anything about the reinforcement situation," Maj. Smythe pointed out.

To this he said the electors in Grey North must realize that "a man who has raised an army, and

coming home says shortly after that he knows nothing about it, is either lying, lacks the courage to tell what he knows, or lacks an interest in what is happening to the boys overseas.

"However, two weeks later, on taking up Col. Ralston's vacated post, apparently on hearsay, for he had claimed ignorance to overseas conditions only a few weeks before, he made a decision that affected the lives and future of every man in the Canadian Army Overseas. On hearsay information he made up his mind the voluntary recruiting system would work.

He pointed out that Gen. McNaughton had either lied at the press interview, or he accepted what he was told as a basis for his decision.

"The people of Grey North will see through that kind of leadership," he said.

Maj. Smythe pointed out again that Gen. McNaughton might not have been telling lies when he said he knew nothing of the conditions overseas. He may have been ignorant of them when he made his decision concerning the voluntary system, he continued, for only shortly after that he was forced to change his mind again and make 16,000 N.R.M.A. troops available as overseas reinforcements.

"Any one of these three incidents shows clearly that Gen. McNaughton should not be in the job," he said.

Maj. Smythe said he had every confidence in the people of Canada "making their own decisions" and in "seeing the right thing done."

Of the coming by-election he said, "The people in Grey North

are a good clear-headed lot, and if they put Gen. McNaughton in as minister of defence they haven't been told all the facts." He added, "there are too many decent people in Canada to let a man get away with the stuff Gen. McNaughton has tried to get away with."

Recalling the Canadian drive around Caen and the reasons he gave when he first came back for stating bluntly that reinforcements were badly needed, he said, "I don't know how Gen. McNaughton can look an honest soldier in the eye for his recent actions. He has apparently forgotten about his boys overseas."

Here to attend a meeting of the board of governors of the National Hockey League, Maj. Smythe was accompanied by Mrs. Smythe. Celebrating his 50th birthday yesterday, he still walked with some difficulty because of the bomb fragment wound he received near the base of the spine during the Canadian drive from the French beachheads.

McNAUGHTON SAYS NO DRAFTEE REVOLT

He Says Discipline Satisfactory When Men Were Sent Overseas

Owen Sound, February 2.—(C)—Defence Minister McNaughton said in a statement today that the discipline at the ports of embarkation in Canada and on the ships during the recent movement of home defence troops overseas had been "satisfactory and the men have made a very good impression on arrival."

Gen. McNaughton was commenting on a statement made last night at Meaford, by the Progressive Conservative national leader, John Bracken. Addressing a political rally, Mr. Bracken asked that Gen. McNaughton tell how the home defence troops had thrown their rifles and ammunition overboard while on the high seas.

A prepared statement issued on behalf of Gen. McNaughton said:

In an answer Gen. McNaughton states that the accusations which have been made by John Bracken have been investigated by the officers of the Department of National Defence.

The authorities at the ports of embarkation report that there have been rumors that one draftee had thrown his rifle and kit overboard. It had been stated that the man's kit was recovered and the rifle lost.

There was no confirmation that this incident in an individual case had happened. Inquiries have been made to London.

Gen. McNaughton stated further that he now had full reports on the embarkation, the voyage and the arrival in the United Kingdom of the troopship which had carried the N.R.M.A. men as well as others.

The discipline at the ports in this country, and on the ships had been satisfactory and the men had made a very good impression on arrival.

Gen. McNaughton observed that if Mr. Bracken had in fact made the statement attributed to him, it was another example of careless utterances which have come to be associated with his name. He had made serious charges. He would be given every opportunity to substantiate what he had said.

McNaughton Bids Bracken Prove Rifles Ditched 'or Pay Penalty'

Defence Minister Says Senior Officers Checking Statement

Bognor, Ont., February 2.—(C)—Defence Minister McNaughton tonight called on John Bracken, Progressive Conservative leader, to substantiate his statement that Home Defence troops had thrown their rifles and ammunition overboard while on the way overseas, or to "pay the penalty."

In a fiery windup of his campaign as government candidate in the Grey North byelection of February 5, Gen. McNaughton said that earlier today he had challenged Mr. Bracken to substantiate his statement.

"I am going to see that he does substantiate that statement or pay the penalty. These outrageous and loose statements against the discipline in the Canadian Army have got to come to an end."

Gen. McNaughton said that in a speech at Meaford, Ont., last night Mr. Bracken had painted a picture of platoons of men proceeding overseas going to the side of ships and throwing their guns and ammunition overboard.

When he heard the report Gen. McNaughton said he telephoned his department in Ottawa and asked his officers to telephone all ports of embarkation to check the accuracy of the reports. The senior officers of the department could find no basis for the report. There was a rumor that one man had gone crazy and thrown his rifle

(Continued on Page 11, Col. 6.)

and kit overboard. "The platoons now were down to one crazy man," said Gen. McNaughton.

As a further check a trans-Atlantic call was made to London and the senior officers there said they had never heard reports of any incidents such as mentioned by Mr. Bracken. The officers in London were asked to get in touch with the officer in charge of the troops on every ship that took the reinforcements overseas. The information obtained from these officers was ordered to be reported to the Defence Ministry by tomorrow.

Gen. McNaughton said that Mr. Bracken's statement carried "alarm and despair to all those who are jealous of the prestige and standing of the Canadian Army." It brought comfort to Hitler.

"And to think that that statement was given out as fact by a man who holds the position he holds. I call on that gentleman to substantiate his statement. I am going to see that he does substantiate it or pay the penalty for it."

"I feel more bitter about that than about the lacing he gave me," Gen. McNaughton said that two days ago Mr. Bracken — "the man who purports to lead a party that goes back to Sir John A. Macdonald" had not only condemned the government's policy, but "he saw fit to slander my character with words that did not have any truth in them."

Gen. McNaughton said that if the opposition wanted a fight in the campaign he was all for it.

"I have been fighting all my life. I have a bit of Scot in me and I like a good scrap, but I like clean fighting."

"I was warned when I came into public life that I would have lots of abuse and mud slung at my character by irresponsible people."

"I haven't paid much attention to the two Toronto papers which have hammered me in season and out of season."

He had the editorials of the two papers clipped out and placed on his desk every day, but what was said did not bother him.

"You have to consider the source of the remarks before you take them too much to heart," he said.

Gen. McNaughton led off his address with a review of events leading up to his entry into the government. He told of the reinforcement crisis and of the present reinforcement situation.

He said he thought that when the special session of parliament ended much of the troubles would be over.

However, there were newspapers in Montreal and Toronto which set to cause every bit of trouble they could invent or create and there was one party which set out to exploit the reinforcement issue for political advantage.

He called on his listeners for their support so that he might win a seat in the Commons. The government hoped to hold another short session before a general election and he felt it would be essential for him to be there to pilot through Defence Department measures.

Bracken Asserts Call-ups Favor Some Regions

Owen Sound, Ont., February 2.—(C)—John Bracken, Progressive Conservative leader, tonight told electors of Grey North constituency that the federal government's manpower policy "has taken twice as many of your sons and husbands as it has taken from some other parts of Canada."

"It has emptied some of your homes of all your boys," he said in a speech prepared for delivery over the Owen Sound radio station. "It has left some of the homes in other parts of Canada, almost if not wholly, untouched."

"The government allowed that to happen for political advantage to itself. That is what Mr. King's manpower policy did to you. It is a policy which was politically expedient from the government's point of view, but it cost your citizens a disproportionate share of the human cost of war."

"The government proposes to keep on taking more of your sons to the fighting zones as reinforcements, even though they have sixty odd thousand men in Mr. King's draftee army, 42,000 of whom are trained and physically fit to go."

"Our policy, on the other hand, is to have those in Mr. King's Home Army used as reinforcements before any other essential workers in any field are taken. The government's policy has been to keep Mr. King's draftees at home, even though it

costs us \$150,000,000 per year in extra taxes. We say that not another essential worker should be required to go until these men Mr. King shelters here at home are made available for reinforcements."

"The supporters of Mr. Case's opposition are sedulously circulating the rumor that those now on deferment on farms and in factories would be called immediately if Mr. Case were elected."

"This is, of course, wholly false. No deferments that have been granted for essential farm and factory work will be affected in any way by the result of this byelection."

Mr. Bracken called for support of his party candidate and said "elect him and you will tell the government that you expect it to fight this war fairly, not unfairly."

Bracken Again Queries Rifles Overboard Act

Owen Sound, February 2.—(C)—John Bracken, Progressive Conservative leader, tonight asked Defence Minister McNaughton to "tell the people of Canada frankly whether the draftees arrived in England with all their weapons and if not, why not."

Mr. Bracken's statement in reply to the one made earlier in the day by Gen. McNaughton follows:

"Gen. McNaughton's reply to statements made by me last night at Meaford is just another effort to again confuse the public. Let him tell the people of Canada frankly whether the draftees arrived in England with all their weapons and if not why not."

"Let it be clearly understood I reported to the Canadian people an unsatisfactory situation, the facts of which were given to me by responsible Canadians overseas."

"It is interesting to note that Gen. McNaughton ignores entirely the challenge I made at Meaford last night and which I repeat again now: 'I challenge him to show that a single reinforcement demand sent from Canadian military headquarters at London to the Department of National Defence since he became minister, has been met to the extent requested.'"



HIGH HATS INVITE SNOWBALLS

Zombies in U.S. Seattle Says

SEATTLE Feb. 3—(A.P.)—The Seattle Post-Intelligencer said today an "undetermined number of Canadian soldiers are believed absent without leave in Seattle and neighboring American Pacific Northwest cities" and added the men "face court martial upon arrest."

The article said Maj. Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V.C., General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Pacific Command at Vancouver, refused comment about the soldiers, "known in Canada as 'Zombies'."

"But it is known in Vancouver that Canadian military authorities have been apprised of the presence at Seattle of Canadian soldiers suspected of 'Zombie' status, and it is reported that an immediate effort will be made to return them to Canada in custody," the article said.

Canadian Army officials in Vancouver said they "had not possible way of knowing whether there is any truth in the report."

The Post-Intelligencer said Canadian authorities believed a "considerable" number of the "Zombies", still in uniform, "may now be living in Seattle, Tacoma, Everett and other American coast cities, benefitting from facilities set up by charitable and civic organizations for the accommodation and entertainment of Allied troops."

Deserters Seized

LETHBRIDGE, Alta., Feb. 3—(C.P.)—Five deserters and two absentees from the Canadian Active Army were taken into custody by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the southern part of Alberta from Jan. 26 to Feb. 1, Inspector E. D. Fryte, officer commanding the Lethbridge subdivision, said yesterday.

Two of the men were sentenced to one year in jail for stealing an automobile in Medicine Hat, while another two are awaiting trial on a charge of theft. The remaining three servicemen have been handed over to the military authorities to be returned to their units.

M'Naughton-Bracken Feud Sizzles as Campaign Ends

By James Oastler
Star Staff Correspondent

OWEN SOUND, Feb. 3—If there is the slightest doubt in anybody's mind that this miniature election up in Grey North is not a knock-down, drag-out battle for keeps between the Liberal and the Progressive Conservative candidates, with the C.C.F. nominee being almost ignored, they had better get it out of their heads.

The climax came when Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, Minister of National Defence, in an interview with The Star charged John Bracken, leader of the Progressive Conservative party, with being "careless and irresponsible" and also that both Bracken and his associates had shown an "utter disregard of the truth."

Gen. McNaughton was mad clear through. There had been an increasing number of charges which had disturbed him but it was not until the last 24 hours that, as he said, Mr. Bracken "following what his candidate had been doing, decided to make a personal attack on

my own character, I feel now that I should hit back and give him some of his own medicine."

McNaughton Angry

Sitting there on a hard-backed chair in a back bedroom in a hotel, Gen. McNaughton did not enlarge on the "personal attack" angle, but he did say that the whole purpose of the Government was to support the Canadian Army in Western Europe and in Italy and all the resources of the country would be made available for proper use. "Make no mistake about it, nobody need doubt that they will be used. They will be, as required."

This man, called to one of the biggest ministerial posts in the Government and in the political scheme for the first time in his life, admitted he had found the "going tough". But life had never been smooth for the man who built the modern Canadian Army. He was no politician and he admitted it. He had in the past been too busy for that. Now that his hair is rapidly graying he found himself in the midst of the hottest political campaign in years.

Asked how he thought the campaign was going, he snapped, "Very well. No doubt the other candidates will be saying that, too, but I mean what I say." He stopped, then looked up and continued

In expressing that opinion Gen. McNaughton said he gave it in no casual spirit. He had got it from people who knew the riding, men and women who knew the folks of Grey North and who could analyse the feelings of both urban and rural citizens.

Difficult Problems

Life had never been soft for him, he said. No sooner had he got one activity working forward, than another problem cropped up. All his life he had been forced to adapt himself to changed conditions and in some cases pretty quickly.

The single issue of the whole campaign was to get him a seat in the House of Commons but the most publicized issue had been the question of reinforcements. His campaign was to avoid personalities and abuse. This same policy had been followed by the C.C.F. candidate and his leaders.

It was at this point that Gen. McNaughton who had been sitting toying with the fire escape rope near the window, jumped up and striding across the room declared: "It was only when the man who purports to lead the Progressive Conservative party, following what his own candidate has been doing, decided to make a personal attack on my character, did I feel that I should hit back and give him some of his own medicine."

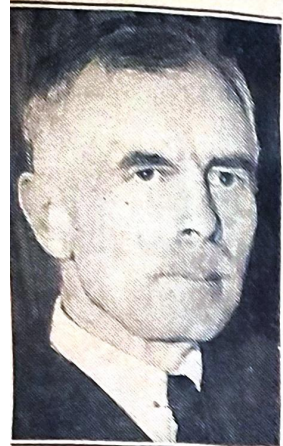
He had been shocked by the carelessness and irresponsibility of John Bracken and his associates and their utter disregard of the

GREY CAMPAIGN ENDS IN HOT CLASHES

N HARDEST FIGHT

CLOSE VOTE LIKELY

THE OPPOSITION CANDIDATES



GEN. A. G. L. McNAUGHTON
Defence Minister

Charges and Counter-charges
End Bitter Electioneering

FINAL RALLIES HELD

Returned Officers Say Bracken's Statements Are Substantiated

By JAMES MACKENZIE FYFE
(Gazette Staff Correspondent.)

Owen Sound, February 4.—The storm of political battle subsided last night and the issues of the Grey North by-election are now in the hands of the voters. They have been debated in the closing days of the campaign with a bitterness and vituperation that was in sharp contrast to the somewhat placid nature of its earlier stages. Hard things have been said by the Liberal and Progressive Conservative standard-bearers, and charges of the most serious nature have been made by both sides that can hardly be dismissed as political oratory, even after the battle has been won and lost.

The appearance of John Bracken, the Progressive Conservative leader, in the riding and the sensational nature of the charges he made against the government's conscription policy and its results whipped a flagging campaign into a hotly contested struggle and injected the note of defiance on which it closed last night. As a result of the charges and counter-charges exchanged between him and Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, Minister of Defence, two important points now stand out:

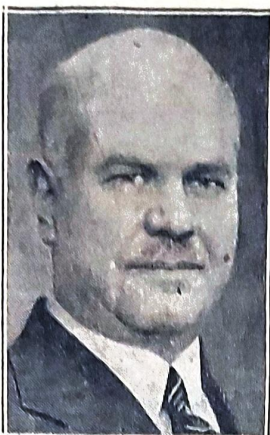
Mr. Bracken's challenge to the minister to say that a single reinforcement demand sent from military headquarters in London to the Department of National Defence since he became Minister has been met to the extent requested has not yet been answered.

Mr. Bracken's demand that the General tell how Canadian soldiers threw their rifles overboard while en route to Britain has been met by a call to substantiate his statement or be prepared to pay the penalty for it. And last night John G. Diefenbaker told an audience here that this is a threat to the Progressive Conservative Leader that infers internment for breach of the Defence of Canada regulations. He assured his listeners that when John Bracken makes statements they are not made recklessly and that the party will not be cowed by threats.

STATEMENTS SAID TRUE

That is the note on which the campaign has closed. There cannot be much doubt that it will be one which will be heard again regardless of the result of this by-election when the government goes to the country to seek a new mandate. The Progressive Conservatives wound up their effort last night with Mr. Bracken speaking in Clarksburg and Gordon Graydon supporting Mr. Diefenbaker here in the city. The latter was one of the most persuasive meetings of the party's campaign, for in addition to the two "big guns" of the House group there were Maj. George Hees and Capt. Howard Sale, recently returned from the fighting fronts, to declare their belief that Mr. Bracken had brought back with him from overseas fair, true and unexaggerated picture of how the men in the front lines feel.

Their talks were a moving account of the needs of the men overseas that related for the first time in the campaign to the issues of the by-election directly to the far greater events abroad to which Canadian lives are dedicated. Many observers felt that their effect might have greatly strengthened the party's cause had they been delivered earlier in the campaign, but the soldier's appearance had perforce to await Gen. McNaughton's denial of the conditions Mr. Bracken described.



W. GARFIELD CASE
Progressive Conservative



AIR VICE-MARSHAL GODFREY
C.C.F.

King Plans Break from Empire, Says L'Action Catholique Report

Quebec, February 4. — (C)—L'Action Catholique said in a newspaper story Saturday that Prime Minister Mackenzie King, according to Quebec Liberal sources, had drawn up a new party platform which includes the naming of a Canadian as Governor-General and the entrance of Canada in the Pan-American Union. The story gave as its source "a prominent member of the Quebec Liberal party," and added: "The near future will tell whether the forecast of this Liberal leader of Quebec is to be confirmed."

Mr. King's program, says L'Action Catholique, is reported to include nothing more than the following points:

The electors of Grey North are surely faced with one of the most difficult decisions that can ever have come to the way voters anywhere, and the perplexities of the issue and the anomalies of the candidates will not help them in reaching it. Gen. McNaughton, running as a Liberal, has been normally a Conservative all his life. He is a life-long believer in the voluntary system of raising Canada's armed forces, and he is now seeking election to enable him to carry out the government's conscription policy.

W. Garfield Case, the Progressive Conservative candidate, once contested Dufferin-Simcoe as a Liberal and has contested Grey North as an independent Liberal. He objected to conscription in the last war and still admits he does not like it. He is now the standard-bearer here of the party that demand full conscription for overseas service, equality of service and sacrifice.

MANY CONTRADICTIONS.

Air Vice-Marshal Earl Godfrey, a newcomer to politics, is an industrialist running on the C.C.F. ticket. His military service, which is honorable and distinguished, began at the age of 12 when he was a bugler. Now he advocates the policies of a party whose conversion to conscription is of recent vintage. These contradictions are enough to puzzle any conscientious voter, but there are still more.

Conscription, generally thought to have been the chief issue in the campaign, was kept well in the background by all the parties until Mr. Bracken threw it violently into the ring. Gen. McNaughton up to that point had contented himself with asking for election so that he might take his place in the House to place the military estimates before a session which has not yet been announced, and with repeated assurances that the reinforcement situation was satisfactory to date and that further calls would be met.

Air Vice-Marshal Godfrey has reiterated that his party stands for all-out conscription of manpower and wealth, and he has been proceeding with its customary attacks on the policies of the two older parties and the C.C.F.'s program for Canada's future advancement under socialism.

One of the most curious side-lights of this campaign is that the man who appears to be the most popular of all is not here. He is Col. J. L. Ralston, whose name was cheered to the echo every time it was mentioned by the Progressive Conservatives. The Liberals, who count Col. Ralston as a lifelong and eminent member of their ranks, never mentioned him at all. General McNaughton has apparently forgotten the former Defence Minister's name, for he refers

"Nomination of a Canadian Governor-General (Gen. Georges P. Vanier, at present Canadian minister to France, to begin with); Adoption of an authentically Canadian flag;

"Adoption of a Canadian national anthem;

"Abolition of appeals to the Privy Council;

"Entrance of Canada in the Pan-American Union and, to cap the story, the independence of Canada."

The story said also that Prime Minister was allegedly planning to oust the notoriously imperialistic members of his cabinet and replace them with ministers with "a mentality genuinely Canadian."

The key to the election result is the vote in the city of Owen Sound. Here again there is another factor that may complicate the voters' decision. Mr. Case is opposed by two men from other parts who do not intend to run in Grey North in general elections whether any one of them is elected here or not. Thus Mr. Case may get a larger proportion of the home town vote than he would if either of his opponents came from the riding.

In the last federal election in 1940, W. P. Telford, Liberal, was elected with 7,538 votes. V. C. Porteous, Conservative, got 5,771 votes and Garfield Case, running as an independent Liberal, came third with 2,434. In the 21 elections in the constituency since Confederation the Liberals have won 11 and the Conservatives 10. There are 13 municipalities in Grey North, four urban, nine rural. In the 1940 election the urban vote was much heavier than the rural, in the last provincial election, in August 1943, the rural vote was only some 860 below the urban polling.

An analysis of the vote in the 1940 federal election reveals that the Conservatives were weaker in the country than were the Liberals, and that the Liberals can afford to drop votes in the urban communities and still come out on top as long as they maintain their rural support. But that was the situation before the C.C.F. came into the field.

In the 1943 provincial election the third party made it appearance, with results that are well enough known. The two constituencies, federal and provincial, are not exactly the same, but by computing the votes in the townships which interchange their positions between Grey South and Grey North federally and provincially, it can be arrived at that if the two ridings were the same the Liberals in this hypothetical federal election would have taken 5,400 votes

the Conservatives 5,158 and the C.C.F. 3,777.

SITUATION ALTERS

In the provincial election the Progressive Conservatives took the lead in the urban centres of Owen Sound, Meaford and Thornbury. That picture has changed somewhat with the entry of the C.C.F. upon the scene and particularly the support given the C.C.F. by the Political Action Committee of the Canadian Congress of Labor. The C.C.F. confidently expects to take the labor vote solidly in Owen Sound and to get substantial support in the rural centres as well. It appears that if either the C.C.F. or the Progressive Conservatives are to win they must get a good lead in Owen Sound and the three other urban communities.

Unless the issue of conscription is overwhelming, the prospects of Mr. Case's victory in the rural areas are not over-bright. And it does not appear that this issue is as popular among farmers here as might be supposed. The incidence of deferments for agricultural necessity is said to be high throughout the riding. This has apparently worried the Progressive Conservatives that their manpower program and that their manpower program envisages allocating men to the job in which they can do the most good, and that is not necessarily in the army.

The Liberals seem to be the contestants who can afford to be out on the urban vote and still pull through in the country, but even they are sure that they will lose very much without rising defeat. For the C.C.F. the question mark is how well they have done in their efforts to pull out the farm vote. In 1943 they got 28 per cent. of the vote in the constituency; there seems little doubt that they can increase their urban support.

It is snowing hard here tonight again. The back roads are very full, and if it continues to snow overnight the Liberal vote in the rural areas will tend to fall off, a factor that will assist the C.C.F. chances.

All here agreed that the race likely to be close. No one is making final conclusions. The Postmaster General, Hon. W. P. Mulock, placed a bet of \$1,000 yesterday on his party's candidate, and the campaign was covered at the Progressive Conservative headquarters. The campaign that wound up on Saturday night was conducted on the part of the Liberals and the Progressive Conservatives in a cross-fire of charges and challenges. They have belabored each other with such vigor on the platform as through the medium of lavish advertising in the Owen Sound Sun-Times that many observers here felt they were in danger of knowing themselves out in the province.

The C.C.F. has watched this performance with pleasure. Its members have gone about their organizational tasks quietly and little attention has been paid on the part of the two other parties have addressed each other. In the melee the C.C.F. has been somewhat lost of, with the result that Liberal and Progressive Conservative speakers have neglected to direct much of their attack against it. This suited the C.C.F. very well and has been making the most of the opportunity.

A.W.L.'S SOUGHT ACROSS BORDER

Searched in Seattle; No
Report on Punishment

February 4.—(C)—Amid
discipline action has
been taken against the first
of 6,000 Home Defence Army ab-
sents and deserters, military and
civil police pressed their search
across the international border this
week-end.

Defence Headquarters said they
had "no information" on reports of
deserters and punishment.
Neither did they indicate how
many of the deserters had been ap-
prehended to date, nor procedure in
prosecuting them.

On Thursday the Army an-
nounced without elaboration that
1,000 of the 6,000 men overdue from
Canada have had returned.
They were conscripted for over-
seas service under government
regulations providing 16,000 in-
fantry reinforcements.

Defence Minister Mc-
Naughton announced the absences
January 29 he said the men would
be charged as deserters after they
had been at large 21 days.

He said the troop movement be-
ginning Christmas week. Therefore, it
was reasonable to assume that the
remaining absences now must be
considered deserters.

Only guide to disciplinary action
is to take against the mass of
deserters was a half-page De-
fence Department advertisement
circulating throughout Canada and
listing offences and penalties un-
der military and civil law relating
to desertion, absent without leave
and harboring deserters.

The Army Act says that if a man
warned for draft overseas over-
seas he draft leave, even though
he does not know the exact date
of sailing, it will be open to a
court martial, if the circum-
stances warrant it, to infer that he
intended to escape the service on
which he was ordered and to con-
sider him a deserter.

The general order covering this
type of army crime says the de-
serter can be subject to penal ser-
vice of three years up to life;
detention barracks service up to two
years (hard labor) up to three
years; dishonorable discharge and
loss of pay. A military legal
expert has said the intention to
desert must be proved before a man
can be convicted.

On laws provide fines and im-
prisonment for persons who harbor
deserters.

SOME IN SEATTLE

The police roundup of deserters
had a new turn Saturday with the
detention of an undetermined
number of deserters were shelter-
ing in Seattle, Wash., and other
neighboring United States cities.

The Command—where the
movement of Home De-
fence troops originated—terse-
ly dismissed the Seattle reports,
and the matter was being in-
vestigated and added "the fullest
cooperation from both American
military and civil police is being
secured."

Pacific Command nor
Defence Headquarters here would
discuss. One officer offered the
opinion that the fact that some of
the deserters crossed the border
might mitigate against them at sub-
sequent courts martial.

He said he did not know wheth-
er prosecution proceedings would
be required in such cases, but he
thought this did not seem the case
judging from the Pacific Command
statement which indicated a
military agreement be-
tween the command and the Unit-
ed States military and civil police.

"Can you possibly say what is
the for the men still at large?"
a reporter asked.

The spokesman would only refer
to the warning advertisement which
carried the advice: "Every day of
absence without leave adds to the
gravity of the offence."

Another point which has not been
clarified in official announcements
is whether any of the deserters are
General Service personnel who
were recent converts from the
Home Defence Army.

Only One Man Threw Rifle Away McNaughton Says Check-up Shows

Ottawa, February 4.—(C)—Am-
plifying his statement of Friday on
the department of Home Defence
conscripts en route overseas, De-
fence Minister McNaughton on Sat-
urday said a comprehensive check
showed that one soldier threw
overboard his rifle and equipment
and then balked at leaving the ship
at a British port.

"He was taken off the ship by
his unit and dealt with," the state-
ment said, adding: "Except for
this, absolutely no incident of any
kind occurred."

There was no indication as to
what disciplinary action was taken
against the recalcitrant draftee.

In Friday's statement, Gen.
McNaughton said that the disci-
pline at the ports of embarkation
had been "satisfactory, and the men
have made a very good impression
on arrival."

He was commenting on a state-
ment made Thursday night at Mea-
ford, Ont., by the Progressive Con-
servative national leader, John
Bracken. Mr. Bracken, addressing
a political rally, asked that Gen.
McNaughton tell how the Home
Defence troops threw their rifles
and ammunition overboard while
on the high seas.

The discipline of the troops came
in for more attention in the Grey
North campaign Friday night. Gen.
McNaughton called on Mr. Bracken
to substantiate his claim that rifles
had been thrown overboard over-
seas "or pay the penalty."

"I am going to see that he does
substantiate that statement or pay
the penalty. These outrageous and
loose statements against the disci-
pline in the Canadian Army have
got to come to an end."

Mr. Bracken, speaking in another
part of the riding, asked that Gen.
McNaughton "tell the people of
Canada frankly whether the draf-
tees arrived in England with all
their weapons and if not, why not."

Saturday's statement follows:

"The Minister of National De-
fence states that all reports receiv-
ed regarding the recent movement

overseas of reinforcement person-
nel, including N.R.M.A. troops,
show that there is no truth in state-
ments published in the press that
soldiers threw their rifles over-
board while crossing the Atlantic.

"One soldier threw his rifle and
equipment into the waters of the
harbor at the port of embarkation,
the reports said. The equipment
which floated, was recovered, but
the rifle sank to the bottom and
could not be located.

"Reports received by N.D.H.O.
from assembly areas, embarkation
areas and from overseas all refer
specifically to the good behavior
of the troops during the movement.

"A general report received from
Canadian Military Headquarters in
London says:

"On all sailings the movement
control personnel said it was one
of the best movements of Canadian
troops. Ships were left very
clean and railway people confirm-
ed the same idea.

"Among all these troops there
was only one soldier who threw his
rifle and equipment overboard at
port of departure. At the port of
arrival the same soldier refused
to go off the ship. He was taken
off the ship by his unit and dealt
with. Except for this, absolutely
no incident of any kind occurred."

"A cable received from Canadian
Military Headquarters, London,
after the troops' arrival overseas,
says in part:

"N.R.M.A. personnel are settling
down well and instruction is pro-
ceeding. No disciplinary troubles
have been encountered."

"The report adds that the station
master at the English town to
which the troops were destined com-
plimented the units on the condi-
tion in which the trains were left.

"Senior officers from National
Defence Headquarters who inspect-
ed the troops before departure re-
ported on their return to Ottawa
that the conduct of the men on the
vessels was of as high a standard as
in any previous movements of
troops on their departure for over-
seas."

GREY NORTH VOTES.

Today the electors of Grey North go to the
polls. And surely in the history of the country
there have been few stranger elections.

Clearly many things have combined to make
this more than a by-election in the usual and
technical meanings of the term. The Govern-
ment has decided to run in Grey North a man
who has become a figure of national controversy
on account of the peculiar, if not unprecedented,
circumstances under which he was appointed and
has assumed office. The Progressive Conservative
and C.C.F. parties have both widened the national
significance of the by-election by entering their
nominations. More than this, the leaders of both
these opposition parties have come to Grey North
in person to support their respective candidates.
Still further, the Prime Minister, though he did
not set foot in Grey North, has added to the
national interest of the contest not only by his
frequent statements and by the letters he has
mailed to the electors, but by the way in which
he has hinted that the outcome in Grey North
will have an important influence upon his plans
for the future.

Last, and surely not least, the people of Can-
ada, in all provinces and electoral districts, have
followed this campaign, in all its varied develop-
ments, with a concentration of interest that per-
haps no other by-election has ever roused.

There are several plain reasons why this local
contest should have taken on an importance so
general. First of all, there is the fact that the
present parliament, by the regulations of the
constitution, is very near the end of its natural
life. With a general election approaching, there
is an inevitable curiosity with regard to anything
that might be a forerunner or a prophecy of the
trends of public opinion.

To this fact is added the reinforcement issue,
which has a very close and personal meaning for
so many Canadian families. The events recently
connected with this issue have been dramatic in
their intensity, with the requested resignation of
the defence minister, the subsequent disclosure of
the Government's methods, the critical session of
parliament, the appearance in public life of a new
defence minister with a composite policy, and
the conditions which have arisen among the Home
Defence troops detailed by the Government for
overseas service.

But there is a still deeper cause for public
interest. For the reinforcement issue, important
as it is, has served in an astonishing way, to open
up to public view the mentality and character of
the Government. Consequently it is not only the
matter of reinforcements but the present Govern-
ment itself that has become the ultimate and most
interesting issue.

Today the country will watch with attention
how this constituency, which was selected by the
Government because of its established record of
federal and provincial Liberal loyalty, will react
to the issues and the appeals of the recent cam-
paigns. There can be little doubt that its deci-
sion, whatever it may be, will have a considerable
influence upon the present highly unsettled bal-
ance of Canada's political affairs.

WEATHER FORECAST
A little warmer with light snow.
For complete weather reports see page twelve.

The Gazette

VOL. CLXXIV. No. 32

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1945.—TWENTY

CASE DEFEATS McNAUGHTON; KING H

TORY REACTION SAYS MINISTER

McNaughton Sees Defeat as
Great Lesson to Canadians

(Special to The Gazette.)

Owen Sound, February 5.—Defence Minister A. G. L. McNaughton, defeated Liberal candidate in the Grey North byelection, tonight attributed his defeat to "Tory reaction," and described the campaign as the first skirmish in the great battle to decide the future of Canada for a long time to come.

"I am apologizing to nobody and congratulating nobody in this skirmish," he told party workers and newsmen in his committee rooms after the results of the election were made known. Later he broadcast a statement over the local radio station. The battle he is prepared to join, he said, will decide whether the young men and women of Canada will grow up in freedom of conscience, or whether they will "come under the bondage of a completely unscrupulous dictatorship which masquerades under the false front of a progressive label."

The General does not know the full reason for the results of today's election, but whatever they are they will be looked into and guarded against in future, he said. "We have had a lesson," he declared. "We are awake and more determined than ever that in the final count we will win through."

General McNaughton has dedicated himself to the "great cause for which the Liberal party stands," he declared. He said he had just been speaking to the Prime Minister. "He is not daunted," he told the gathering. "This is, as I have said, a preliminary skirmish, and we will get after them shortly," he declared.

CASE STATEMENT

Garfield Case, winner in the byelection, said tonight after the results were known that he did not look upon the victory as a personal one, but rather as one for "my people . . . and the boys overseas." "With this mandate, may I assure you that I will go forward, not in any sense to represent only those who have supported me, but each and every citizen in this riding and I hope you consider me your representative in its broadest sense," said Mr. Case.

He said he wished to congratulate his opponents — Defence Minister McNaughton, government candidate, and Air Vice-Marshal A. E. Godfrey, C.C.F. candidate — for

the clean way in which the campaign was fought.

He thanked those who had helped him during the campaign and expressed the hope that he would be able to discharge his responsibility to the entire satisfaction of everyone in the constituency.

Mr. Case, who broadcast the statement over the local radio station, spoke shortly before Air Vice-Marshal Godfrey went on the air and thanked those who had supported him and helped during the campaign.

McNAUGHTON TEXT.

Following is the text of a statement made last night by Gen. McNaughton:

"Tonight I speak to you briefly from Grey North where for the moment the forces of Tory reaction have won the first skirmish in the great battle which must now be joined.

"That battle is to decide the future of Canada for a long time to come. It is to decide whether our young men and women will have a proper opportunity to grow up in freedom of conscience, of faith and of expression—to live their lives in happiness and abundance or whether they are to come under the bondage of a completely unscrupulous dictatorship which masquerades under the false front of a progressive label.

"We have fought this election campaign. We have been fair and right in everything we have done.

"We do not yet know the full reasons for today's results but you may be sure that they will be most completely looked into and guarded against in future.

"We have had a lesson. We are awake and more determined than

ever that in the final count we will win through.

"I thank all the workers in the cause most sincerely for the great support they have given me.

"I regret that duties at the Department of National Defence have kept me away from them for many days. I ask that all our friends be of good courage for the future. I ask that they carry on.

"For myself I have given my loyalty and devotion to the Prime Minister. I have dedicated myself to the great cause for which the Liberal party stands. I will fight to the end and in the end our cause will triumph."

Coldwell Issues Statement

Ottawa, February 5.—(Q)—M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. National leader, acknowledging the defeat of Air Vice-Marshal Earl Godfrey in today's Grey North byelection, said in a statement tonight that Grey North "was in many respects new ground for our movement but in such contests the message and the program of the C.C.F. has been brought to thousands of Canadians."

Text of Mr. Coldwell's statement follows:

Air Vice-Marshal Earl Godfrey fought a magnificent fight. It was clean and raised the issues the country must face soon. They (C.C.F.) did not participate in the mud-slinging that featured the closing days of the campaign.

The C.C.F. stands four square for reinforcements for our fighting men but demands, too, that industry and wealth shall serve the nation in the same manner and on the same terms as our men and women serve in war.

We did not win, but our candidate and his workers deserve the thanks of our entire movement for their self-sacrificing effort in the peoples cause.

The educational work which they have done in the past few weeks will bear fruit in the days to come.

Grey North was in many respects new ground for our movement, but in such contests the message and the program of the C.C.F. has been brought to thousands of Canadians.

Grey Election Result Is Surprise to Quebec

(Gazette Staff Correspondent)

Quebec, February 5.—Election of Garfield Case, Progressive Conservative in Grey North, proved to be a decided surprise in political circles here tonight, and the effect will be to direct more attention to the Progressive Conservatives in the future.

Up to a few days ago sentiment in this neighborhood appeared to favor Air Vice-Marshal Earl Godfrey, C.C.F. candidate as the probable victor, and this by people who see no prospects of any C.C.F. success in this province. Of late days there was a switch away from Godfrey but it was to Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, the Liberal candidate, the news as to his prospects which came down this way being decidedly better for the General, and a government is always favored in a byelection.

There was very little belief that the Progressive Conservative candidate would carry the seat, and by a substantial margin, and it may be expected that there will be at least more curiosity here as to the Progressive Conservative party and its leader, John Bracken. Without question, the stock of the latter has soared and will soar greatly, and the effect in this province may be more widespread than such an event would ordinarily mean.

ette.

PAGES

Temperature Yesterday
Max., 25; Min., 10
Same Date Last Year
Max., 34; Min., 13
Monday, February 7, of last year
Max., 20; Min., 2
MCGILL OBSERVATORY READINGS

PRICE FIVE CENTS

HINTS EARLY ELECTION

STATEMENT ISSUED

Prime Minister Doubts if Another Session to Be Held
CABINET MEETS TODAY
Premier Says Question of General Election Raised by Grey Result

By F. C. MEARS
(Ottawa Resident Correspondent.)
Ottawa, February 5.—The decisive defeat of Defence Minister A. G. L. McNaughton and the signal success of John Bracken, National Progressive Conservative leader, in his first test, is almost certain to lead to early dissolution of the 13th Parliament.

Lead Is Given Nation By Grey, Says Bracken

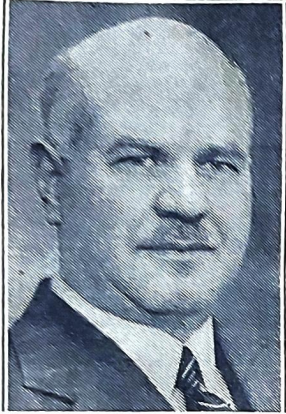
Ottawa, February 5.—"The election of Grey North has given lead to the nation," said John Bracken, Progressive Conservative leader, in an early statement tonight.

"The leaders of Grey North," said Bracken, "have spoken for the country—once on the platform and now in the by-election."

"Their decision by the voters in Grey North," said Mr. Bracken, "will give great comfort to the millions who are so valiantly fighting for their country."

"As indicated today by their action," said the Progressive Conservative leader, "that when a government takes its responsibilities it must call up its resources fairly, not unfairly; its resources must be adequate and not shoddy; and the war effort must provide that there is a clear approach to equality of service and equality of sacrifice."

WINNER IN GREY



W. GARFIELD CASE, Progressive Conservative candidate in Grey North, whose election over Gen. McNaughton, government candidate, and Air Vice-Marshal Godfrey, C.C.F., was announced early last night. Mr. Case had a majority of 1,239 over Gen. McNaughton and 4,202 over Air Vice-Marshal Godfrey. According to unofficial returns, the C.C.F. candidate will lose his deposit.

But others who are tonight jubilant over the result see in it a final notice to the government that its manpower policy is unfair, that the Prime Minister did a deep injustice to Col. J. L. Ralston when he dismissed him from the National Defence post and engaged General McNaughton, an avowed foe of conscription, but who changed his mind quickly when Premier King himself had to turn a policy somersault as the result of pressure from six of his cabinet colleagues.

Another feature of the voting result is that John Bracken has won his spurs, that no longer can the Liberals afford to be defiant on the battle field late in the contest but his challenges to Gen. McNaughton apparently could not be effectively met.

TWO COURSES OPEN

Two courses obviously are open to the Prime Minister. He may attempt to meet Parliament again and ask the legislators to vote money for the war program and for civil government and then dissolve, or he may ask for immediate dissolution.

To adopt the former course would involve consultation with the heads of the opposition groups, but it is exceedingly doubtful in view of the North Grey result that he would get agreement from the Progressive Conservative members to curtail debate on what would be a brief and purely formal Throne speech so that war money might be appropriated.

An almost immediate dissolution would permit of voting very early in April and the reassembling of Parliament in the following month, but so long after the opening of the new fiscal year on April 1.

Whatever course is chosen tomorrow's meeting of the cabinet will be extremely important, and will be extremely important from it eagerly the announcement from it eagerly awaited throughout the country.

Mr. Bracken in his comment tonight on the Grey North result pointed out that the election in that riding had given a lead to the nation, that it had been made clear in Grey North that when a government takes its country into war

C.C.F. POOR THIRD

Progressive Conservative Candidate Has 1,239 Margin

KING POLICY IS ISSUE

Vote Is Larger Than Normal Despite Heavy Snow in District

COMPLETE 127 POLLS.

W. Garfield Case (PC) 7,338
Air Vice-Marshal A. E. Godfrey (CCF) 3,136
Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton (L) 6,099

Owen Sound, February 5.—(O)—Garfield Case, one-time Liberal who challenged the Dominion government on its conscription policy, today won Grey North constituency for the Progressive Conservatives with a decisive by-election victory over Defence Minister McNaughton, Liberal candidate, and Air Vice-Marshal A. E. Godfrey, C.C.F.

Less than two hours after the polls closed The Canadian Press flashed the victory of the ex-mayor of Owen Sound in a hard-fought contest upon which the political eyes of the nation has been focussed for weeks.

Government takes its country into war the people have a right to expect justice and fair play in the military manpower policy, that reinforcements must be adequate and not stinted, and that there must be a closer approach to equality of service and equality of sacrifice than has been possible under the present administration.

M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, betrayed little enthusiasm in the result but claimed his party had conducted a clean fight, that good educational work had been done.

KING'S STATEMENT.

Text of Mr. King's statement follows:

The result of the by-election in Grey North raises immediately the question as to whether or not any useful purpose can be served by having another session of Parliament before a general election. The purpose of the by-election was solely to make possible the presence of the Minister of National Defence in the House of Commons at another session. Since the session would necessarily be concerned with war measures, the presence of the minister in the house would be absolutely essential.

The constituency of Grey North was opened by the government in the expectation that, in the circumstances, no opposition would be offered to the minister and a subsequent session of Parliament before a general election would thereby be assured.

It was obvious from the outset that the Minister of National Defence could not give his full attention to a political campaign and, at the same time, discharge his heavy wartime responsibilities. The returns make it apparent that had Gen. McNaughton's time in the constituency not been so limited, he would have been elected.

The returns also make clear that one cause of the success of the Progressive Conservative candidate was the splitting of the vote of those who are opposed to reactionary forces.

As everyone is aware, I have all along sought to avoid a general election while our men are fighting at the front.

The by-election has, however,

Final returns showed that Case with 1,239 more votes than Gen. McNaughton and 4,202 more than Air Vice-Marshal Godfrey. The complete unofficial vote: Case, 7,338; Godfrey, 3,136; McNaughton, 6,099.

Mr. Case, a 45-year-old insurance agent, polled 44 per cent. of the votes in today's balloting. Gen. McNaughton polled 37 per cent. and Air Vice-Marshal Godfrey 19 per cent.

In the 1940 general election William Telford, Liberal, won with a lead of 1,767 over V. C. Porteous, National Government (Conservative) and 5,104 over Mr. Case, who in that campaign ran as National Liberal Progressive. The complete 1940 vote: Telford, 7,538; Porteous, 6,771; Case, 2,434.

70 PER CENT. VOTE

Despite recent heavy snows in the constituency, more voters turned out for the by-election than in the Grey North balloting in the March, 1940, general election. Today's total of 16,573 indicated about 70 per cent. of the total voting strength of 23,000 made its appearance. In 1940 there were 15,806 ballots cast, and in the October, 1935, general election there were 17,750 votes.

Mr. Case led in all but one of the 13 polling divisions in the constituency, including the city of Owen Sound.

Defence Minister McNaughton was ahead only in Sydenham township division, 511 to 381. Air Vice Marshal Godfrey was far behind in all divisions.

In the 1940 Dominion general election, Mr. Telford, winning Liberal candidate, led in eight of the 13 divisions; V. C. Porteous, National Government (Conservative), in four, and Mr. Case, who ran as a national Liberal-Progressive candidate in that election, in one, the town of Thornbury.

Following is a recapitulation of today's by-election vote in the 13 municipalities:

	Case	McNaughton	Godfrey
Owen Sound...	2,088	1,917	2,635
St. Vincent	372	53	291
Sydenham	381	146	511
Euphrasia	497	116	259
Osprey	349	98	254
Holland	492	75	296
Derby	295	179	264
Collingwood			
Township	476	97	435
Keppel	371	95	370
Sarawak	122	50	103
Shallow Lake ..	67	30	44
Meaford	667	222	483
Thornbury	221	58	174
Totals	7,338	3,136	6,099

COMMONS STANDING

Party standing in the Canadian House of Commons after the Progressive victory in the Grey North by-election:

Liberals, 156; Progressive Conservatives, 40; C.C.F., 10; Social Credit, 10; Others, 18; Vacant, 11. Total, 245.

raised the question whether by their attitudes in the present campaign, the parties which have offered opposition to the government in the by-election have not created and fostered the very circumstances which make a general election inevitable, and this at what may well prove to be the most critical of all stages of the war.

To this aspect of the situation, the government will give immediate and close attention.

King Is Said to Favor Flag for the Dominion

Ottawa, February 5.—(O)—Statement by the Quebec newspaper L'Action Catholique, that a new Liberal party platform has been drawn up by Prime Minister Mackenzie King drew no official comment today in the capital.

It was pointed out, however, that Mr. King has been on record since last session in favor of two of the five main platform points mentioned by L'Action: adoption of a Canadian flag and adoption of a Canadian national anthem.

Abolition of appeals to the Privy Council has been advocated by Mr. King since 1938.

Appointment of a Canadian as governor-general is within the power of the Canadian government which makes its recommendations to the King. The incumbent's term expires in June.

The fifth point mentioned by L'Action was entrance of Canada into the Pan-American union. So far the union has never issued an invitation but it was reported from Washington yesterday that a formal invitation may shortly be extended.

Bracken Proves Vital Sparkplug For Conservative Win in Grey

By JAMES MACKENZIE FYFE
(Gazette Staff Writer.)

Owen Sound, February 5.—John Bracken, leader of the Progressive Conservatives, put the Grey North byelection back squarely on the reinforcement issue, and on that issue it has been fought and won by his party. The meaning that party men here are reading tonight into the result is that the people of Grey North have registered their dissatisfaction with the government's manpower policy in the sharpest terms and have rebuked it severely. The next move is now looked for from Ottawa, and it is confidently expected that the challenge must be taken up, and that the answer will be a call to a general election.

Defence Minister McNaughton has been plainly told by the electors here that they have no confidence in his handling of the reinforcement policy to date and that they cannot entrust to him the task of providing adequate reinforcements for the future. The heavy support for the Progressive Conservative call for full conscription came from all parts of the riding, and it has resulted in the largest majority the party has polled in the constituency since 1904.

Gen. McNaughton's reply to the voters was immediate and sharp. He told them he had been defeated by "Tory reaction." He implied that his political career has just

begun. He admitted that he did not understand why he had been rejected, and he threatened to "get after" what he described as an "unscrupulous dictatorship" masquerading under the false front of a progressive label.

Garfield Case, the successful candidate, in a victory broad to night, paid tribute to his leader. It was a well deserved compliment, for Mr. Bracken almost single-handedly rescued the party's campaign from the doldrums. Party followers here believe its effect will be to rally the Progressive Conservatives solidly around Mr. Bracken for the next phase of the struggle into which he will lead them.

The arrival of the leader directly from the battlefronts was indeed the spark that lit the campaign fires, and they raged unquenchably until the ballots were cast. It is safe to say that without the intervention of Mr. Bracken at the strategic moment and his presentation of the reinforcement issue in the sensational terms of battlefield deficiencies the day would have been lost.

The Progressive Conservative campaign took a curious turn from the first. There was little enthusiasm among the electorate, yet

he was generally conceded that Mr. Case, as the struggle got under way, would emerge the winner. The appearance of Gen. McNaughton and the quiet showmanship with which he was stage-managed threw the Progressive Conservatives career into low gear, and the party men here did not conceal their dismay at the course of events. Mr. Bracken's arrival changed that, but there was another factor that proved of the greatest consequence to the party's success. This was the appearance of Maj. George Hees and Captain Howard Sale, both of Toronto, who came into the riding at their own request to declare that from their own front line experience they knew that what the Progressive Conservative leader had to say was nothing but the truth, and that he was telling Canada what the men overseas wanted to hear said.

STRONG IMPRESSION

This was on Saturday night, and over the weekend there was a notable uplift of Progressive Conservative hopes. The two army men made a tremendous impression, particularly on the women who heard them, and the party organization made the most of their opportunity in getting the news of what they had to say sent around the riding. The reinforcement issue, that had tended to dissolve into the background, flared strongly, and it was on conscription that the voters cast their ballots.

Up to this point the Progressive Conservative candidate had been forced on the defensive by the publication of personal correspondence showing that he had formerly been an advocate of the voluntary system. But John Bracken, by demanding answers to specific charges, put the Defence Minister on the defensive, and at least one of his demands has not yet been answered by the minister, to state whether one single request from Canadian Army headquarters in London for reinforcements since Gen. McNaughton assumed office has been met in full. To many here tonight it seemed that the unanswered question has been answered by the people.

In the last 24 hours of the contest the reinforcement issue took the spotlight. The initial interest in the post-war proposals of the C.C.F. appeared to diminish, the General's request that he be enabled to take his seat in the House took on an academic cast in the minds of the voters, and all that could be heard in the streets and shops was discussion of Mr. Bracken's charges and General McNaughton's counter-charges.

By last evening the trend became so apparent that the speculators and prognosticators developed the new theory that if the conscription issue had indeed taken first place in the voters' thoughts, the C.C.F. might figure much less prominently in the voting than had earlier been estimated. This is what appears to have happened. If there is any surprise in the result, apart from the resurgence of Progressive Conservative prospects after Mr. Bracken's appearance, it is in the showing the C.C.F. made. Both Progressive Conservative and Liberal camps had conceded that C.C.F. opposition was likely to be strong in the country districts and that the labor vote in the city might give the C.C.F. the lead in Owen Sound. But when the votes were counted Mr. Case led in the city with 3,090 votes. Gen. McNaughton had 2,633, and Air Vice Marshal Godfrey trailed with 1,968.

C.C.F. LOSES VOTES

The C.C.F. vote in Owen Sound in fact, was less than in the 1943 provincial election—the first occasion in which a C.C.F. candidate entered the riding—when W. C. Elliott polled 2,374.

Both Gen. McNaughton and Air Vice Marshal Godfrey appear to have suffered from the factor which was a complicated one to judge—the influence Garfield Case wielded in the city of which he has been three times mayor. He advanced the strong argument that if either of the other gentlemen were elected they would never again be seen in the riding, and in fact had announced their intention of contesting the general election in their own bailiwicks.

The slogan "Send a Grey North man to Ottawa, not an Ottawa man to Grey North" has paid dividends. On the other hand, the successful candidate at one time seemed likely to talk himself out of the picture. This was not entirely his fault, for in the early stages of the campaign the result seemed so certain that the party strategists were convinced he could carry it alone without outside aid. It was only when the race began to slow up that such speakers as Gordon Graydon and John Diefenbaker made their appearance, and the latter's address at the closing rally on Saturday night was one of the most effective of the campaign.

At no time did the Progressive Conservative organization lose sight of the urgency of their position. They were well aware if they lost this byelection on such an issue the party would be confronted with serious problems. There are some men high in the party ranks tonight who feel that they must still increase their efforts if they are to go forward to the general elections with the same drive as characterized the closing hours of their battle here.

As for Gen. McNaughton, his campaign withered when he was faced with Mr. Bracken's demands and when he replied to them either obliquely or not at all. He fought almost alone, and he appeared a tired and lonely figure at night as he returned to the hotel where he made his headquarters along with the Progressive Conservatives and the press corps.

Tonight he was not only tired but angry, and his face flushed as he made his post-election statement. In the early part of the fight he had rested his case simply on the necessity of his obtaining a seat

in the House to carry out his duties as Defence Minister, and his plea appeared to be making an effect on his audiences. But to those who were familiar with the events leading up to his assumption of ministerial rank there were blanks that could not be explained away.

As the contest became embittered the General showed flashes of anger and petulance. He referred to John Bracken as an "individual" who was going round giving out "stuff." But he had no help from his fellows in the cabinet even when he began to get into difficulties. Not one of the key ministers stood by his side to ask that he be allowed to take his place with them at the cabinet table, and the voters could only draw the obvious inference—that they could not and would not.

The shadow of Hon. J. L. Ralston loomed over Gen. McNaughton's campaign. The electors could not help but note that the men who had stood by Ralston would not now stand by his successor, who has now gone down to defeat. And now the shadow of this byelection stretches back again to the Capital to darken the scene where the events that culminated in tonight's rebuke to the government that brought them about had their beginning.

Whether the country wants Gen. McNaughton for its Defence Minister is yet to be seen, but it is certain that the people of Grey North do not. How accurately Grey North speaks for the nation is yet to be determined, but what it had to say tonight will be listened to with respect.

GREY NORTH ANSWERS APPEAL FROM OVERSEAS

In the bye-election in Grey North only one of the three parties represented wished to provide an unhesitating and unconditional support for the Canadians fighting overseas. The candidate of that party was the man elected.

The man whom the Government was running in the constituency, and whose appearance in public life made this necessary election necessary, was in a peculiarly complete way the symbol of the Government's policy on overseas reinforcements. That policy was essentially the same as the Government had deliberately chosen to adopt at the beginning of the war.

It was not a policy inspired by a wholehearted and forthright spirit but one motivated by an anxiety to keep the degree of overseas military support within the limits of domestic political expedience. It was a limping and unsteady policy which gave an illusion of adequacy only so long as the demands upon the Canadian Army remained negligible or moderate. As soon as the Army as a whole became engaged in its desperate and exacting tasks this policy, of an inevitable necessity, began to break down. Indeed, only a few months after D-Day the gulf between losses and reinforcements began to widen alarmingly.

But the condemnation that belongs to the Government consists not only of the divided purpose that led it to adopt such a policy at the war's beginning. It is derived to an even greater degree from its determination to maintain this policy even after its insufficiency had been so vividly disclosed. And it was determined to maintain this policy, not because it did not see the pressing need but because it gave a superior consideration to political expedience.

It was, however, as unfortunate for itself, as it was fortunate for the Canadian public and the Canadians overseas that the Government happened to have as Defence Minister, Col. J. L. Ralston, whose conscience could not accept the demands that the Prime Minister made upon it. He called for a more responsible reinforcement policy, and because he insisted on this demand, he was dropped from the cabinet. It was in order to administer and maintain the original and failing policy that Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton was asked to take his place. He accepted the offer. This was the same Gen. McNaughton who was yesterday defeated in Grey North.

The fact that Gen. McNaughton was defeated in Grey North is all the more striking in view of the fact that in Grey North the Government was appealing not to its enemies but to its friends. This seat was selected with a truly judicial care and caution. Indeed, though a number of other seats were vacant at the time, none of these was risked, and Grey North was made vacant by the resignation of the Liberal member who held it. This was done in order to secure for Gen. McNaughton the most favorable auspices for his entrance into public life. For Grey North had established itself as a Liberal stronghold by the consistent loyalty with which it had returned the Liberal candidates in recent federal and provincial elections.

But the Government had other apparent advantages. There was the Prime Minister, who, with all the resources of his high office and his own ingenuity, worked to influence the electors by appeals, tributes, clarifications, pleadings, and threats. Still further, there was the fact that the Progressive Conservative candidate was a man none too strong, who conducted his campaign none too well.

Nevertheless, with all the odds apparently in his favor, the Government candidate went down to defeat, and the Progressive Conservative candidate was returned with majorities by both the rural and urban voters of the constituency. Yet in sober fact the voters of Grey North could not have done otherwise; for a vote for McNaughton meant a vote for a reinforcement policy that would be inhibited by the Government's political sensitivities.

It was the men overseas who won the election, though they were divided from Grey North by oceans and a waste of seas. They found a voice in the campaign when John Bracken came to tell the electors that the boys on the fighting fronts could not understand why there had to be two armies, one to fight and the other not to fight; nor why the Prime Minister had to be continually pushed and prodded into a sense of his responsibilities toward them. Apparently the Grey North electors felt the same difficulty. And that difficulty was inseparable from the person of the candidate presented to them by the Prime Minister.

Reduced to its fundamentals, the failure of the Government in Grey North came from the temptation to which it succumbed—the temptation to extend into the matter of reinforcements the same methods of intricate political compromise which it had employed with very considerable success in other affairs. And the trouble arose from the way in which the electors became confronted with too clear a choice.

For they had to choose between the discretionary hesitations of the King Government and their own spontaneous desire to back up their sons to the limit. It was a choice between the appeal made from Ottawa by the Prime Minister and the appeal made from overseas by their sons. The strain involved proved too great even for the tried and tested Liberal electors of Grey North. They voted for their own flesh and blood rather than for the political security of the Prime Minister. If anyone is to blame, it is the Prime Minister, for it was he who presented them with the choice.

As for the Grey North boys overseas, and for all the Canadian brothers-in-arms, they will learn that their appeal was heard and that it did not go unanswered.

Vote Assessed by Press Across the Dominion

Press comments on the Grey North result collected by the Canadian Press follow:

Montreal Le Canada (Liberal): Mr. Garfield Case's success was astonishingly modest. . . . He had in his favor the enormous weight of prejudices and secular passions. . . . Gen. McNaughton conducted a clean battle as did Alr Marshal Godfrey. The votes that both men drew. . . . represent the sanest elements of Ontario, those which are destined to cement national unity in collaboration with all Canadians.

Sherbrooke Record (Independent): One thing is clear — the great majority of the people of Canada are dissatisfied with the man-power policies of the present administration, which they feel fail to provide the support necessary for the men in the fighting line. The electors of Grey North have given a definite warning to the Government that the present policy of maintaining a dual army is not satisfactory to the men in the field or the voters who speak for them at home. The decision is a definite vote of want of confidence in the Mackenzie King Government. . . .

Sherbrooke La Tribune (Liberal): "Mr. Garfield Case's victory in Grey North yesterday is far from being glorious. It is not glorious, because it is the victory of prejudice and smallness. The Quebec electors, as far as they are concerned, will not forget that Messrs. Bracken and Case during the campaign have used Quebec as their war horse by stating more than once that our province during this war has received privileged treatment in regard to recruiting of the armed forces."

Toronto Globe and Mail (Independent): "Grey North has rebuked Defence Minister McNaughton. From that rebuke rises a full-voiced condemnation of the reinforcement policy and its craftsman, Prime Minister King, who throughout the long tragedy of war has subjected this nation to humiliation and worse in the service of his partisan interests. . . . Its real worth is the tremendous lift which rejection of the King-McNaughton plan will carry to our fighting men now preparing for their crucial battle. . . ."

Ottawa Citizen (Independent): "Failure of Mr. Case to win would have been interpreted as a conclusive defeat of the Progressive Conservative party. Yesterday's by-election result will doubtless have a rallying effect on the party's previously declining prospects in the general election. It is a distinct Progressive Conservative gain."

London Free Press (Independent): "The plain facts are that the people of Ontario have been disturbed over developments of recent months — the crisis over reinforcements, the resignation of Col. Ralston, the appointment of General McNaughton. . . . The compromise policy of partial conscription. . . . This combination of circumstances was responsible more than anything else for the defeat of Gen. McNaughton."

Kingston Whig-Standard (Independent): "Election of Garfield Case. . . . Can only be interpreted as rejection of Gen. McNaughton as Minister of National Defence and rejection of the Dominion Government's manpower policy as well. The rejection is, of course, the decision of only one riding, but it gathers weight from the fact that in the last general election Grey North returned a Liberal. . . . The electors of the Dominion should be given an opportunity to sustain or reverse the verdict of Grey North."

Toronto Star (Independent Liberal): "The phony conscription issue has not only defeated Gen. McNaughton, but has had the deplorable effect of leaving upon the minds of thousands of people with men overseas a doubt as to whether their loved ones are being 'deserted' by Canada. They are not being deserted; and Gen. McNaughton, who was the chief creator of Canada's army, would be the last to permit such a thing."

Toronto Telegram (Independent): "For Mr. King the defeat in Grey North is notice that the time is running short for his Government. The by-election was held in a riding chosen by the Government. . . . The issue was the issue chosen by the Government — the King-McNaughton reinforcement policy. . . . The result. . . . Has been heard by the country with satisfaction and relief. Nowhere will the satisfaction be stronger than among our fighting men."

Owen Sound Sun-Times (Independent): "Citizens of Grey North have voiced their disapproval of the man-power policies of the Mackenzie King Government — the campaign from the Progressive Conservative standpoint was directed against the reinforcement plans of the Minister of National Defence and of the Government. . . . What the result would have been had the C.C.F. refrained from placing a candidate in the field no one can gauge accurately. Even the most optimistic members of the C.C.F. admit the party had actually suffered a serious reverse."

Windsor Star (Independent): "The defeat of Hon. A. G. L. McNaughton must be construed as a major setback for the Government. . . . Mr. King has hinted that he would not attempt to carry on if his Minister of National Defence was denied a seat in the House. Gen. McNaughton's defeat, however, will probably cause him to ponder before taking the plunge into an appeal to the people throughout the Dominion. He is in a poor position to make it, immediately after such a major reverse."

Maritime Views

Saint John Telegraph-Journal (Independent): "In rejecting the bid of the Ministry of National Defence. . . . for a seat in the House of Commons, the voters of North Grey expressed their disapproval of the way the conscription question has been handled by the Mackenzie King Government. Other factors undoubtedly influenced the outcome of the by-election in a minor way, but the issue which overshadowed all the rest was that of military man-power."

Halifax Chronicle (Liberal): "The general election itself, in its final outcome, will be influenced in no small measure by the capacity of the Government to put its own house in order and to place in the post of Minister of National Defence a man who enjoys the unqualified confidence of the entire country. The by-election has, in effect, decided exactly nothing. What it has done is still further to obscure the political horizon in such a manner that nothing short of a general election can be expected to clear it effectively."

Halifax Herald (Independent): "General McNaughton deserved to lose in Grey North. The Government deserved to lose there. But it is not a matter for rejoicing to see this former commander of the Canadian Army in this war, this distinguished soldier of the Great War humiliated in a game for which he had slight aptitude and of

which he has no understanding at all. The blame for this sorry situation must rest as much as upon the Government as upon General McNaughton himself."

Moncton (N.B.) Daily Times (Progressive Conservative): "The result in Grey North is a clear indictment of the Mackenzie King Government's half-measure reinforcement policy. General McNaughton sought from the people there not only an endorsement for himself to Parliament but for the ministerial policy which he announced after assuming the national defence portfolio. Grey North was, in effect, a proving ground for that policy and it has failed in the test."

Charlottetown Guardian (Conservative): "A far less astute man than Premier Mackenzie King should be able to read the handwriting on the wall as chalked up in yesterday's by-election in Grey North. The defeat of Defence Minister McNaughton by the Progressive Conservative candidate, Mr. Case, means the end of the road for the King Government. . . . The verdict will be a sign, not only to the Government but to the men overseas of how their fellow citizens at home regard Mr. King's administration."

Western Papers Comment

Regina Leader-Post (Ind-Lib): "The defeat of Gen. McNaughton in Grey North, besides being an emphatic setback for the Government, brings the Prime Minister face to face with the decision of whether or not to call an immediate general election. On the basis of his several pronouncements during the campaign it would seem that he feels impelled to do so."

Winnipeg Free Press (Ind-Lib): "The defeat of Gen. McNaughton in Grey North makes an immediate general election in Canada desirable and inevitable. . . . The Progressive Conservative party, by its campaign in North Grey, has raised a war issue throughout the country which must be met and settled. . . . The sooner the election is held, the sooner we shall have a nation united in purpose and in strength."

Saskatoon Star-Phoenix (Ind-Lib): "The result may be interpreted to mean that a general election, so that any doubts about Parliament's mandate may be resolved, is imperative. But the figures in this election can scarcely be viewed as a reliable guide to Ontario's voting as a whole."

Leithbridge Herald (Liberal): "Canadians may prepare themselves for an early general election. That is the inference which may logically be drawn from the Progressive Conservative victory in Grey North. The repudiation of Gen. McNaughton will be interpreted as repudiation of the Government. The surprise of the campaign was the poor showing of the C.C.F. candidate."

Calgary Albertan (Independent): "The result can only be taken as repudiation of the Prime Minister's conscription policy. General McNaughton carried on his campaign practically alone and was handicapped by being forced to divide his time between Ottawa and the election front. . . . A galaxy of party stalwarts rallied to help the Progressive Conservative and John Bracken, fresh from the war fronts, may have influenced the voters in his last-minute appearance."

Calgary Herald (Independent): "Viewed from any standpoint the decisive defeat of Gen. McNaughton is a major reverse for the Mackenzie King Government and also a stunning rebuke to the C.C.F. for opposing a candidate and a policy which it had

supported in Parliament a few months ago. The Progressive Conservatives have every reason to exult over the election of their candidate and to regard the result as what is likely to happen many times in the next Federal election in Ontario."

Vancouver News-Herald (Independent): General McNaughton. . . . has placed himself and his policies before the electors of Grey North and has gone down to defeat. . . . The result will hearten the opposition parties and create considerable alarm in Government circles. No subsidiary considerations can outweigh the fact that the electors of one of Canada's 245 constituencies have spoken against the party now in power."

General Case, Progressive Conservative candidate, Mr. Bracken, in his bid for a seat in Parliament at Ottawa, is considered a sharp rebuke to Prime Minister Mackenzie King's compromise policy. Though this policy received impressive support in a recent vote in the House of Commons, certain features of the by-election at Grey North appear to make it a better barometer of public opinion.

Three Things Indicated

The results indicate three things: First, that when a Government calls upon its man-power, it does not unfairly select those upon whom the nation's arms are to be used to defend it in the line of battle, the provision of reinforcements must be adequate and unskilled; third, that to a nation where the lives of our youth are at stake there must be an approach to equality of service and equality of sacrifice—decisions on military matters must not be determined by military rank, not by political expediency.

I need not say that I am deeply appreciative of the work of our organization in Grey North and also for the expression of confidence in our policy and in our candidate, Mr. Case, so positively indicated by the electors of that constituency.

New Ground, Says Coldwell

Mr. COLDWELL, C.C.F. national leader, acknowledging the defeat of Air Vice-Marshal Earl Godfrey in yesterday's Grey North by-election, said in a statement at Ottawa last night that Grey North "was in many respects new ground for our movement but in such contests the message and the program of the C.C.F. has been brought to thousands of Canadians."

Mr. Coldwell's statement follows: "I am proud to have fought a magnificent fight. It was one and raised the issues the country must face soon. The C.C.F. did not participate in the mud-slinging that features closing days of the campaign."

The C.C.F. stands four square for improvements for our fighting men but demands, too, that money and wealth shall serve the same in the same manner and in the same terms as our men of women serve in war.

We will not win, but our candidate and his workers deserve the thanks of our entire movement for their self-sacrificing efforts in the people's cause.

The educational work which they are doing in the past few months bears fruit in the days to come.

Grey North was in many respects new ground for our movement but in such contests the message and the program of the C.C.F. has been brought to thousands of Canadians.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1945

A NATION'S HEALTH IS A NATION'S WEALTH

GREY NORTH ELECTION

THE result of the by-election in Grey North, the return of W. Garfield Case, the Progressive Conservative candidate, by 1,239 votes over General A. G. L. McNaughton, is to be regretted for two reasons: one, that it is a snub to Canada's most distinguished soldier, and the other that the electorate allowed themselves to be influenced in the wrong direction by the misleading statements made, and the bitterly unfair personal campaign carried on, by the Opposition candidates.

Incidentally, the electors of Grey North administered a severe rebuff to the C.C.F., whose candidate lost his deposit.

So far as the actual outcome is concerned, it does not affect General McNaughton's position as Minister of Defence, nor does it secure the victor in this by-election a seat in the new Parliament, because the whole thing will have to be fought over again. Premier King made it abundantly clear well ahead of time that he did not regard, and that he hoped the electorate of Grey North would not regard, this by-election as an ordinary political contest, but it is clear that the electors have preferred to be swayed by wild charges and reckless generalizations rather than take a calm and reasoned attitude towards the issue.

General McNaughton fought a courageous campaign. Mr. Bracken's allegation as to the behaviour of conscripted men en route to the front from Canada was picked up boldly by General McNaughton, who showed that it was based on one solitary instance. This, however, did not prevent the most sensational stories being sent from Canada to American papers, and there printed with scare headlines, which undoubtedly did a grave injustice to this country's war effort. Just what an effect this sensationalism did have outside the country was illustrated yesterday in Washington when Senator Burton K. Wheeler claimed that between sixteen and eighteen thousand Canadian soldiers had thrown away their weapons!

Whatever the general election brings forth it is to be hoped that it will be free from wild sensationalism of this kind, for it is, more often than not, the original charge rather than the correct statement of fact which makes the more lasting impression.

An American View of Grey North

(New York Herald Tribune)

The defeat of General A. G. L. McNaughton, Canadian Defence Minister, in his bid for a seat in Parliament at Ottawa, is considered a sharp rebuke to Prime Minister Mackenzie King's compromise policy. Though this policy received impressive support in a recent vote in the House of Commons, certain features of the by-election at Grey North appear to make it a better barometer of public opinion.

In the first place the constituency, situated in Ontario on the rocky shore of Georgian Bay and predominantly rural, was hand-picked for McNaughton's benefit. The Liberal member representing it resigned to make way for the general in the expectation, which he shared with the Government, that his successor would receive popular ratification in a quiet election.

To upset this arrangement required more than a mere political manoeuvre on the part of the Opposition. Considering the candidate and the issue, it needed a very definite popular reaction, and that this was forthcoming is as obvious as it is significant. The King Government has been beaten on its own carefully selected ground.

And not by anti-conscriptionist sentiment, of which Quebec is the hotbed, but by its opposite. Gar-

field Case, the victor, was the candidate of the Progressive Conservatives, the official opposition party in Parliament, who have been demanding full conscription and an end to the appeasement of the Prime Minister's Quebec support. The result, as Mr. King has strongly intimated, would seem clearly to indicate a general election in the near future.

He does not welcome the prospect of such an election "at what may well prove to be the most critical of all stages of the war," and neither, one may suppose, do the Canadians as a whole. Nevertheless, if it should help to clear the air of a poisonous controversy they will probably feel that it is worth the price.

For the Dominion has been badly divided and for too long over the question of conscription for overseas service. More lately with the failure of the volunteer system to supply adequate replacements for the Canadian Army on the western front and with the revolt of home-defence troops against the limited draft imposed by an order-in-council—a half measure designed to remedy the deficiency—much bitterness has been engendered on both sides.

Far better that a clean-cut mandate from the people put an end to this festering situation.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Correction

Sir,—In an editorial titled "Financial Contradictions" in today's issue of your paper, you deal at some length with the \$1,000,000 offering of security bonds by the C.C.F. Government of Saskatchewan.

At the close of this editorial you state and I quote: "And the people of Saskatchewan appear a trifle hesitant about parting with their savings for a socialist dream, especially when the interest offered is 50 to 100 per cent. less than that on comparable provincial bonds of more assured security."

Presumably this calculation is an error, which I think should be brought to the attention of your readers in fairness to the Saskatchewan Government.

ARTHUR POND.

Montreal, February 6.

Editor's Note: Mr. Pond's point is well taken. The reference would have been clearer and more accurate if it had said that interest on outstanding provincial bonds of more assured security was greater than that offered on the "industrial development bonds" by 50 to 100 per cent. The lagging industrial issue is proposed to pay only 3 per cent., while outstanding Saskatchewan bonds (both direct and guaranteed) for the most part carry interest rates ranging from 4½ to 6 per cent. Even the few issues floated during the "cheap money" period of the past couple of years pay 3½ and 3¾ per cent.

Protests Bracken Charges

Sir,—From your printing of Mr. Bracken's speech, in which he charged that soldiers going overseas had thrown their rifles overboard, it would seem that you are willing to print anything that is said, regardless of whether it is the truth or not, and in this case, something detrimental to our soldiers.

As you doubtless know, only one man threw his rifle overboard, but what will people think when Mr. Bracken's speech is published throughout the United States and elsewhere? It certainly gives Canada a black eye, but perhaps The Gazette doesn't care what other countries think of us.

I feel personally that an apology is due these soldiers who have been slandered for the sake of politics and to Canadians as a whole. We want to build a decent world and we need the help of our newspapers such as The Gazette to record the truth and give constructive reading matter. Won't you help us in this way?

GWYNETH LEWIS.

Montreal, February 5.

Editor's Note: As far as the truth or otherwise of Mr. Bracken's charge is concerned, The Gazette was not and is not in any better

position than Miss Lewis to pass upon it. Even the Prime Minister and General McNaughton do not appear to be able to pass upon the matter with any finality. Mr. King has made no comment at all, and General McNaughton has qualified his statement about only one rifle being thrown overboard with such phrases as "thus far reported," and "as far as can be ascertained."

In the publication of the report referred to by Miss Lewis, the only truth The Gazette or any other newspaper was called upon to determine was whether or not the statement had in fact been made, by a man in the prominent and responsible political position of Mr. Bracken. As to this, no question has thus far been raised. Similarly there was no question as to an answer having been made by General McNaughton, and it was given comparable prominence and space in The Gazette's news columns.

It is not the function of a newspaper to suppress news reports from responsible, reputable sources entitled to a hearing, merely because the editors do not agree with or question the truth of the arguments, representations and allegations made. The day when newspapers begin to shut off the publication of democratic expressions of belief from political spokesmen will mark the end of a free press.

As to Miss Lewis' complaint of "giving Canada a black eye," what does she think this country has been given by the worldwide publicity accorded to the Government's reluctant and inadequate reinforcement policy, and to its tolerance of disorders, resistance and open defiance of even partial conscription for overseas?

King Cabinet Keeps Silence On Election

OTTAWA, Feb. 7 — (Star Special by Staff Correspondent) — Nothing new was in evidence here today concerning the time of the general election. At the Cabinet council yesterday, discussion of the situation was said to be perfunctory. Gen. McNaughton returned only this morning and went at once to the Defence Department.

Reports have been that the present House will not be called back for another session and that the election is likely at the end of April. There is no reason today to vary that.

Capture of North Grey by the Progressive Conservatives in Monday's by-election and the imminence of a general election combine to render both interesting and significant a box score of the results of 18 Federal by-elections held since the last general election in 1940. The Liberals won eight of the by-elections; C.C.F. four, Progressive Conservative, three, and Labor Conservative, Bloc Populaire and Quebec independent groups one each.

Eight Seats Won

While they won eight seats formerly held by Liberals, the Government lost six by-elections to opposing groups as follows:

To the C.C.F., Selkirk and Humboldt, Sask.; Grey North to the Progressive Conservatives; Montreal Cartier to the Labor Progressives; Stanstead to the Bloc Populaire and Charlevoix-Saguenay to the Quebec independent group.

The Progressive Conservatives in addition to capturing Grey North from the Liberals, captured Saskatoon from the United Reform party and held Carlton. However, the Conservatives lost York South to the C.C.F.

The C.C.F., in addition to taking Selkirk and Humboldt from the Liberals and York South from the Conservatives, held Winnipeg North Centre.

At present there are 11 vacancies in the Commons. Eight were held by Liberals, two by the Bloc Populaire (Liberals who crossed the floor since the general election) and one by the C.C.F. (Weyburn, where T. C. Douglas resigned and later was elected Premier of Saskatchewan).

Premier King has made 15 appointments to the Senate since the general election was held five years ago. The present standing in the 96 member Senate is: Liberals 48, Progressive Conservatives 32, vacancies 16.

Army Not Surprised

LONDON, Feb. 7 — (C. P. Cable) — The Daily Express said today in a dispatch from a correspondent on the Western Front that the defeat of Gen. McNaughton in Monday's Grey North by-election didn't particularly surprise Canadian front-line forces.

It added: "Their reaction was: 'Now watch the pot boil', and they are discussing the dispatch of reinforcements to Europe."

"McNaughton's popularity in the Army has dwindled because of his attitude on conscription."

"Generally Canadian troops are more interested in winning the war than speculating on a snap general election."

The Times said today that the Mackenzie King Government has been "shaken" by the defeat of Gen. McNaughton in the Grey North by-election Monday and prophesied a hastened dissolution of the Canadian Parliament.

In a long editorial review of events leading up to the by-election the newspaper commented that the prime purpose of the Grey North campaign — to make possible the presence of the Defence Minister in the House of Commons at another session — was defeated by the Government's own "curious" action.

Curious Decision

"The Government's curious decision—curious because it robbed General McNaughton's candidature of its primary motive—to prorogue Parliament when it met last week until the end of this month may have been intended to allay public excitement," said the newspaper.

"If so it has failed in its object. Although the Prime Minister's comment on his colleague's defeat is characteristically cautious, the Government's position has been shaken and announcement of the date on which it will appeal to the country cannot be postponed for long."

All London newspapers described the by-election in lengthy dispatches.

N.Y. Reaction

NEW YORK, Feb. 7 — (C.P.) — The New York Herald Tribune said in an editorial today that the defeat of Hon. A. G. L. McNaughton in Monday's Grey North by-election "would seem clearly to indicate a general election in the near future."

While Premier Mackenzie King and probably "Canadians as a whole" do not welcome the prospect of an election at such a critical time, "nevertheless, if it should help to clear the air of a poisonous controversy they will probably feel that it is worth the price," the paper said.

Gen. McNaughton's defeat, it said, "is considered a sharp rebuke to Premier Mackenzie King's compromise conscription policy. The King Government has been beaten on its own carefully-selected ground." Describing the Dominion as "badly divided" on the question of conscription for overseas service, the editorial concluded: "Far better that a clean-cut mandate from the people put an end to this festered situation."



THE OLD GREY MARE KICKED UP A BIT

1,100 Soldiers in M.D. 4 Now Hunted as Deserters

Several Hundred Dealt With So Far for Overstaying Leave

THE machinery of standing courts martial in the Montreal military district, geared to deal in summary fashion with minor offences, particularly with absentees, is now beginning to work at high pressure as a result of the army absentees now being apprehended or returning voluntarily to military control.

M.D. No. 4 was the first to inaugurate this practice of summary jurisdiction which, during the quarter ended December 31, dealt with more than 100 cases of men who had overstayed their leave to a considerable extent.

The military authorities, who refuse all information on the subject, are now dealing with about 200 men from different units who overstayed their embarkation leave at Christmas, and will be hard put to it to deal with these men expeditiously so they may be sent overseas with a minimum loss of time. There still remains so far as M.D. 4 is concerned, the problem of rounding up the balance of 1,100 who are now classed as deserters.

Renaud Won't Comment

Major-Gen. E. J. Renaud, C.B., C.B.E., E.D., district officer commanding, is adamant in his refusal to make any official statement on the local "deserter" situation, and neither the Canadian Provost Corps, whose duty it is to apprehend men absent from their units without permission, nor the R.C.M.P., which is reportedly assisting them in the rounding up of army men who may have changed to mufli, is communicative.

All information that can be given out must come from the Public Relations office of M.D. No. 4, military authorities say, but the local P.R.O.'s report there is nothing for publication.

The belief is widely held in military circles, that the overwhelming proportion of the deserters are in hiding in the Laurentians. It is not believed that any of the M.D. 4 men took their rifles on leave with them, as did those from M.D. 5 (Quebec). In the latter case the deserter situation has been complicated by reason of the men being armed.

Hand Grenades Found

Troops stationed in the M.D. 4 area, however, had been found some time ago to have possessed themselves of hand grenades which were found in their equipment. Whether they were merely training grenades or live ones military authorities will not say.

There have been losses of ammunition from probably more than one training centre in the district, involving, it is believed, service rifle ammunition as well as .22 centre ammunition. It is also established that a considerable amount of damage has been inflicted by irresponsible soldiers who have slashed their equipment. This happened some weeks ago.

Local military authorities refer all inquiries on these matters to the Department of National Defence, Ottawa.

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Most of the critical things in life, which become the turning points of human destiny, are little things. —R. Smith.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7.

MCAUGHTON'S CHANGED DEVOTION.

Any doubts there may have been regarding the suitability of Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton for the post of Defence Minister have been effectively removed not only by his defeat in the selected constituency of Grey North but by the manner in which he conducted himself when the fact of his defeat became evident to him.

The disgruntled vehemence which characterized Gen. McNaughton both as Defence Minister and as a parliamentary candidate appeared at this moment of defeat with a striking narrowness. In the political history of this country most candidates, even when defeated, have been able to maintain at least a show of sportsmanship and of acquiescence in the public will. Gen. McNaughton, however, found it necessary to release his indignant disappointment in these words: "I am apologizing to nobody and congratulating nobody."

Yet if this were all that he said, it might be dismissed as something unpleasantly ludicrous. But Gen. McNaughton went on to make a statement of considerable length. It might be expected that this statement would express his regret that his devoted intentions with regard to the troops overseas had not received a greater recognition, and that it might end with an expression of his resolution to see that the reinforcements are dispatched with the speed and in the number that the needs demand. Yet in this statement of many words, there is not so much as one word that refers to the war, to the soldiers fighting that war, or to the reinforcements that those soldiers so urgently require.

After attributing his defeat to "the forces of Tory reaction," he went on to declare his own political allegiance. "For myself," he confessed, "I have given my loyalty and devotion to the Prime Minister. I have dedicated myself to the great cause for which the Liberal party stands. I will fight to the end and in the end our cause will triumph."

Yet Gen. McNaughton said nothing that would indicate that the great cause for which the Liberal party stands is the cause of backing up the Canadians fighting overseas, nor that the triumph of this great cause will mean the adequate flow of reinforcements overseas. On the contrary, his eyes seemed to be directed to that new post-war world in which the need for reinforcements shall have passed away.

He declared his ideas in these words:

That battle (i.e. the battle with the "Tory reactionaries") is to decide the future of Canada for a long time to come. It is to decide whether our young men and women will have a proper opportunity to grow up in freedom of conscience, of faith and of expression—to live their lives in happiness and abundance or whether they are to come under the bondage of a completely unscrupulous dictatorship which masquerades under the false front of a progressive label.

It is very interesting to contrast this disclosure of political interests with the claim of wholly apolitical interests which accompanied his first appearance as Defence Minister. It was in quite a different vein that he spoke of his purposes before the Ottawa Command of the Canadian Legion on November 6:

King Seen Not Rushing Election; Cabinet Leaves Questions Vague

Ottawa, February 9. — (C) — The cabinet held its longest meeting of the week today, but the ministers broke up without any announcement on a decision on the political questions left hanging in the air by the Grey North byelection result.

All indications pointed to the fact that Prime Minister Mackenzie King is not rushing a decision, which now puts the probable date of the general election off to the middle of end of April at the earliest. Earlier forecasts which placed the latest probable date at the end of June still stand, however.

As 60 days must elapse between the announcement of an election and voting day, the earliest possible date for the general election now is April 15.

The Canadian Press was informed that Mr. King will make no statement on political matters during the remainder of this week.

There was a large attendance of ministers at the cabinet meeting which lasted nearly three hours and it was generally assumed some time was devoted to discussion of the political situation, although there was an accumulation of regular governmental business to be handled.

In the offices of the National War Finance Committee preparations

are going forward for a spring Victory Loan with a campaign opening at the end of April. They have had no instructions yet to shift the date of the loan, although it is accepted that a loan campaign and an election campaign would not go well together.

Loan officials would prefer not to have to shift the date of their campaign because over the past few years the loans have been timed to come every six months which makes the sale of loans to employees on the installment plan easy. When one bond has been paid for the employees can buy another and carry on with a deduction from salary at the same rate.

The last Victory Loan drive in the fall called for an objective of \$1,300,000,000 and a total of \$1,517,000,000 was raised. The expectation is that since the government's money requirements are still running high and will continue so even if the war in Europe ends the objective for the spring loan will be boosted to a new high, perhaps \$1,500,000,000.

The last loan produced \$756,000,000 from individual subscribers. These are the sales to which the Finance Department attaches greatest importance and loan officials are confident they can better that mark in the next loan.

However, it is not of post-war problems that I would talk to you tonight. We have yet to bring this titanic struggle, in which we are now engaged, to a satisfactory conclusion and meanwhile we must concentrate our full attention on what is required to support our forces in the field in the battles they must yet fight before we pass this last hard stretch.

Indeed, in his first appearance as the Government candidate in Grey North, Gen. McNaughton described how he had accepted the office of Defence Minister with one purpose and with only one. And this purpose was to support the troops overseas in what he believed to be the most effective manner. He had decided, he said, that he was not cut out for public life and had practically committed himself to another line of endeavor when the Prime Minister had asked his opinion of the best method of securing overseas reinforcements. He had replied that he thought the voluntary method was the best. According to Gen. McNaughton, Mr. King then said: "I think it is a duty to the state that when you give advice you should be prepared to carry it out regardless of the consequences."

On this high plane of wartime service, lifted far above considerations political, the position of Defence Minister was offered and accepted, and the General entered public life.

Such was the picture that Gen. McNaughton presented. He then claimed to stand as an austere military figure, a man drawn unwillingly into public life by the promptings of military duty. But what has now become of that "full attention" which he declared must be concentrated "to support our forces in the field in the battles they must fight?" In the hour of his defeat his thoughts were not with the forces in the field but with the Prime Minister and the Liberal Party—the considerably different objects to which he now declares he is dedicated and which claim his loyalty and devotion, and for which he will fight to the end.

There were always many who suspected that Gen. McNaughton was a political figure, devoted to the carrying out of an essentially political policy. They always had their suspicions, but they hardly expected to have such a confession.

A Delicate Bit of Persuasion

OTTAWA GOSSIP STIRRED ANEW BY MCNAUGHTON

Political, Military Speculation
Follows Reinforcement
Statement

Ottawa, February 12. — © — A statement today by Defence Minister McNaughton that further reinforcements have arrived overseas ensuring backing for army operations for several months set off military and political speculation here tonight.

Saying Canadians now were joined in an offensive which might be the opening phase of one of the world's most "critical and decisive battles," Gen. McNaughton added he had received word "of the safe arrival overseas of further reinforcement contingents and I can now state that we have behind our army in northwestern Europe adequate reinforcements to make the replacements anticipated to be required in the present operations."

In military circles it was speculated the statement on the reinforcement situation might mean the full quota of 16,000 home defence troops made available for overseas service through the government's conscription program now have left Canada.

And an amplification by Gen. McNaughton that overseas forces will be augmented by the continuing dispatch of other troops now in the training stream, military circles said, might mean that all infantry potential entering the army is destined for subsequent overseas service—if the war in Europe lasts until autumn.

In this connection two factors must be considered—it takes between six and eight months to produce a fully-trained infantryman and it is understood no final plans have been made for army participation in Pacific campaigns.

NO ELABORATION.

Gen. McNaughton's reference to future reinforcement plans did not specify general service or home defence draftees or both and a defence headquarters spokesman declined to elaborate.

However, it was noted the statement was made after Ross MacDonald, Liberal member of Parliament for Beaufort, Ont., told a party rally Saturday the 16,000 draftees had been sent overseas and the rest of the trainees—he made no distinction between draftees and general servicemen—would be sent over as soon as they have been trained.

Gen. McNaughton had reiterated in Grey North campaign speeches several times that he intended to use draftees whenever it was necessary to make up deficiencies in future overseas drafts.

Political speculation was touched off by Gen. McNaughton's declaration that now the battle was joined in Germany there should be complete concentration on the big military tasks ahead with no time for "any distractions, however important they may seem to be."

Some circles saw in this a possible hint that either there would be no immediate general election or no closing session of Parliament or both.

There were no clues in the statement to answer many questions which have arisen during the last few weeks and no information was forthcoming from Defence Headquarters. There was no information on how many draftees now were actually overseas, how many had converted to general service ranks and how many draftees and general service personnel or other categories had been re-mustered to the infantry training stream—only branch of the service where a manpower shortage developed.

The 16,000 draftee reinforcements provided under the November 12 order-in-council was part of a total draftee strength at that time of some 59,000 men of which 42,000 were said by Prime Minister Mackenzie King to be suitable for infantry reinforcements. At the same time he said that only 8,000 were sufficiently trained for combat service.

On January 20 Gen. McNaughton announced that the first 8,300 home troops had arrived in Britain. He also disclosed that 6,300 draftees had gone absent without leave and since then this figure has been announced as having been reduced to around 4,000. Other figures to be taken into consideration in any reinforcement calculations are the monthly 5,000 quota called by Selective Service and another unspecified number of men who volunteered.

All troops—home defence and general service—receive the same training courses which in the case of infantry usually consists of three months basic training, two or three months advance training and additional weeks of training while on embarkation draft.

Without official confirmation, it was learned military selection boards are slotting all call-up men and most volunteers who are of a suitable medical category to the infantry.

Meanwhile, lower category draftees will continue to be fed to home establishments, filling spots which would otherwise have to be filled by higher category overseas potential. With the danger of enemy action on Canada's coasts lessening as the decisive stage of the war is being reached there have been curtailments in home defence groups. This general curtailment is said to increase the army's manpower reserve.

Text of Gen. McNaughton's statement follows:
Canadian soldiers are now joined in an offensive which may well be the opening phase of one of the world's most critical and decisive battles. They will play their part in the final defeat of Germany, secure in their knowledge of the full support of the people of Canada in their great undertaking.

The Department of National Defence has received word of the safe arrival overseas of further reinforcement contingents and I can now state that we have behind our army in Northwestern Europe adequate reinforcements to make the replacements anticipated to be required in the present operations. We have substantial further reinforcements in the United Kingdom to meet continuing operations over the next several months. These will be augmented by the continuing dispatch of further numbers now in training in the training centres in Canada.

Accusations have been made by a section of the press that I have used the power of censorship to suppress news they would have liked to publish. It is true that requests were made to the censors to prevent the publication of information concerning troop movements and incidents related thereto; but this was only until we could be certain that these troop movements had been successfully completed without interference by the enemy.

These requests to the censors were made for the sole purpose of protecting our men in transit and in military operations. The release on Saturday of news dispatches telling of the sinking of one Canadian warship and five other ships off Nova Scotia during recent months is proof conclusive of the necessity of requests made at that time; if, indeed, proof were necessary.

Many times I have refrained from doing so because I realized that the safety of troops would be compromised. I have always believed that the safety of our troops transcends all other considerations. The battle joined on German soil last week may influence the whole course of history for generations to come. While this battle lasts, the attention of all Canadians should be concentrated on the military tasks ahead. Any distractions from this single objective, however important they may seem to be, must be foregone in the interests of the army, of Canada and of all we stand for and hope to stand for in the world.



There have been careless statements made in this country by men who ought to know better than to bring despondency to Canadian homes and comfort to the enemy by irresponsible assertions.

Since taking office last November and as our plans and programs developed, there have been many times when I have wanted to give information to the people of Canada and to our army overseas to offset these careless, dangerous statements and in order to carry reassurance.

Many times I have refrained from doing so because I realized that the safety of troops would be compromised. I have always believed that the safety of our troops transcends all other considerations.

The battle joined on German soil last week may influence the whole course of history for generations to come. While this battle lasts, the attention of all Canadians should be concentrated on the military tasks ahead. Any distractions from this single objective, however important they may seem to be, must be foregone in the interests of the army, of Canada and of all we stand for and hope to stand for in the world.

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It is great and manly to disdain disguise; it shows our spirit, and proves our strength. —Young.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

THE PUZZLED WILL.

On the night of the Grey North by-election it was reported that the lights were burning in Parliament's old East Wing. Many at once assumed that the Government, after its threats and declarations during the by-election, was preparing to take such action as would uphold the reality of its words.

But the days have lengthened and the silence has not been broken. The fact would seem to be that the results in Grey North have surprised the Government, upset its best laid plans, and confused its purposes.

At the present declining stage of Parliament's constitutional life the Prime Minister is under the necessity of holding a general election, and of this necessity no one is more aware than he. But there is no reason to suppose that he has been planning to hold his election merely on the grounds that it has become a legal necessity. Rather, it has become his policy to make the opposition appear as the cause of the election, on the alleged ground that they have so obstructed and hindered the Government in its wartime administration as to make necessary a new appeal to the public will. In short, he has been seeking to turn a legal necessity into a political advantage.

Plainly the Prime Minister was counting on Grey North to provide him with the issue he needed. In his election statements he declared that the determination of the opposition to contest the seat was so unwarranted and unworthy that he would have to consider whether any useful purpose would be served by holding another session of the present Parliament, or, in other words, whether he would not have to make a prompt appeal to the country.

Apparently, however, he was counting on Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton being elected in this selected constituency of Liberal loyalty, though with the added advantage of having triumphed in a stiff battle. Under such circumstances, Mr. King could have gone to the country with his Defence Minister and his reinforcement policy approved, but with the pretext of claiming that the Grey North contest had disclosed an intolerable conspiracy to obstruct the Government.

Had the Prime Minister really meant what he said, the high tide of opposition in Grey North would have abundantly fulfilled his warnings and provided him with his sufficient issue. But the fact is that the opposition in Grey North had gone too far for the Prime Minister's particular purposes. Indeed, it had begun to look uncomfortably as if the Grey North electors had not obstructed the Government but had denounced it.

So it was that the lights, though they burned on the night of the Grey North election, shed little illumination on the problem of those who sat in Parliament's old East Wing. No doubt in these long days that have ensued, a further, concentrated effort is being made to devise a new cause to explain the need for a general election—some new apparent issue with which the Prime Minister may go to the country.

Yet the Grey North results have given birth to many perplexities that must be crowding upon the minds of the Prime Minister and his colleagues, and puzzling their wills. There is no doubt that in the old East Wing—

... the native hue of resolution
Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,
And enterprises of great pith and moment
With this regard their currents turn awry,
And lose the name of action.

Macdonald, McNaughton Claims At Odds on U-boats in Atlantic

Ottawa Eyebrows Raised When Naval Minister Flatly Contradicts Colleague's Election Statement on Rate of Convoy Sinkings

By F. C. MEARS

(Gazette Resident Correspondent.)

Ottawa, February 14.—Flat contradiction by Naval Minister Angus Macdonald of the assertion by his cabinet colleague, Defence Minister A. G. L. McNaughton, in the recent North Grey by-election campaign that ships were torpedoed by U-boats every day in the Atlantic, has arched the brows of official Ottawa.

Gen. McNaughton was finding the going hard in North Grey, and in an attempt to fend straight thrusts at his military manpower policy, and his own somersault on conscription, he sought to quiet his critics by emphasizing the difficulties confronting the prime minister and himself in getting men across the ocean.

While the defence minister's assertion about daily U-boat successes went unchallenged in the by-election fight, it received prompt denial from his colleague. Naval Minister Macdonald, when the latter returned from the United Kingdom where he had been in almost daily contact with British naval authorities.

One reporter at a press conference here reminded Mr. Macdonald: "In the recent by-election campaign the statement was made that the North Atlantic was alive with submarines and that ships were being torpedoed day by day."

The naval minister commented that there had been a considerable increase in U-boat activity, but even this was in no way comparable with that of six months ago or with the earlier years of the war.

Then the naval minister was pressed for a more definite or direct contradiction of Gen. McNaughton's statement.

"Are ships being sunk day by day?" Mr. Macdonald was asked.

"No, certainly not," was the blunt reply of the naval minister.

Further as a contrast to some of the defence minister's statements

in North Grey, Mr. Macdonald said in his press conference here that shipping losses from U-boat activity in December last and January this year were considerably less than in the earlier months of 1944.

Point is added to the naval minister's unqualified contradiction of election statements of Gen. McNaughton by the fact that Mr. Macdonald is not only now the general's full-fledged defence colleague in the cabinet, but it is no secret that the naval minister was one of the now famous six ministers who caused the prime minister's volte face on conscription and after Gen. McNaughton had been engaged by Premier King to displace Col. J. L. Ralston, an old and intimate friend of Mr. Macdonald, as defence minister.

It is this circumstance that probably has caused a bit of a flurry in East Block dovescotes. To say that a cabinet minister might be driven to make rash statements in the heat of an election campaign is not likely to provide the slightest justification for the Grey north offence. But to make matters much worse in the East Block, the McNaughton assertions have been exposed as hopelessly inaccurate, and this inaccuracy moreover takes considerable force from Gen. McNaughton's post-election reminder of the censorship and of the importance of protecting Canadian troops bound overseas, from U-boat attacks.

The horrific picture of daily torpedoing of transport ships has been sadly blurred by the prompt and unqualified corrections of Naval Minister Macdonald. The reverberations of these may even be heard when the general election campaign begins. Certainly, they will rob Gen. McNaughton's future statements on the general situation of the importance and authenticity they might possess if made by someone else.

McNaughton Gives Lie to Bracken, Raps Failure to Withdraw Claim

(Gazette Resident Correspondent)

Ottawa, February 15.—Bracken's charge made by John Bracken, Progressive Conservative leader, in the North Grey byelection campaign, Naughton in a press interview today gave another exhibition of the temper that has characterized utterances of the defence minister both during and since the North Grey contest.

A few days ago there came from Gen. McNaughton a heated reply to newspaper criticism of the unfair application of the censorship in connection with troop movements and the A.W.L. outbreak. Then followed Naval Minister Angus Macdonald's unqualified denial of Gen. McNaughton's byelection assertion about U-boat successes, and today came another outbreak from Gen. McNaughton.

Declaring that Mr. Bracken's statement about draftees tossing their rifles into the ocean had been shown to be wrong, Gen. McNaughton said today, when asked for comment that the Progressive-Conservative leader "had neither the manliness nor the manliness to withdraw," Gen. McNaughton further said the rifle charges were another

example of the "careless statements" made by Mr. Bracken in North Grey. But there was no attempt to compare this alleged carelessness with his own in talking about daily U-boat triumphs.

"This diabolical untruth," declared Gen. McNaughton, "had gone far and wide, growing in the process from one poor offender who actually did throw his rifle and knife into the sea at the port of embarkation until it had been reported in the press of our neighbors to the south that 16,000 to 18,000 of our soldiers had thrown their rifles away."

The defence minister added that Mr. Bracken's name would for all time be "associated with this canard."

But Gen. McNaughton, the seatless minister, was not content to brand the Bracken charges as "a diabolical untruth." He further declared that the statement of the Progressive Conservative leader "was a measure of the attention which should be paid to him, both within and outside of Canada."

"His statement having been proven wrong," Gen. McNaughton added, "Mr. Bracken, not having any military experience, probably did

not appreciate the effect of the statement on the morale of the troops and their proper pride in their discipline."

"His statement having proven wrong," Gen. McNaughton continued, "Mr. Bracken had neither the manners nor the manliness to withdraw it and to apologize to the army and to Canada for the harm he has done."

Another interesting point of the interview was Gen. McNaughton's reiteration of his intention to be the Liberal candidate in Qu'Appelle, his native county in Saskatchewan, but he made no prediction that his western candidacy would be more successful than the North Grey venture.

And there are people in the eastern half of the country who have yet to be shown how a general who had retired could be prevailed upon by the prime minister to accept a post that had been filled by Col. J. L. Ralston, and on the understanding that he was to have his way against conscription, and how, when the going became rough, he agreed overnight to join the somersault of the prime minister.

Whatever else may develop it is apparent that the general election atmosphere has come, that a government desperately on the defensive is producing noisy charges and denials. This condition will steadily be made more interesting, and in a few days the people may be told by Premier King when they may expect to vote, the country having been informed the night of the North Grey balloting that the situation would receive "immediate and close attention."

Bracken Remains Silent

Winnipeg, February 15.—John Bracken, national leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, said in an interview here today he would not discuss political or any other issues during his present visit to Western Canada.

He said he was primarily in the west to visit the federal constituency of Neepawa where he has been nominated for the next federal election by his party.

Mr. Bracken refused to comment on a statement made earlier today in Ottawa by Defence Minister McNaughton. Gen. McNaughton said a statement made recently by the Progressive Conservative leader on the department of home defence troops was a "diabolical untruth."

TACTICS THAT DO NOT WIN VOTES.

The spectacle of the Naval Minister flatly denying a statement made by the Minister of National Defence would be spectacular enough in itself. But this incident, involving as it does a statement made by the Defence Minister in the recent Grey North by-election, throws a revealing light upon the way in which Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton yielded to the temptation of a false defence.

On January 24, while speaking at the town of Shallow Lake in the Grey North constituency, Gen. McNaughton sought to explain the difficulties of his office and the need for withholding information, by announcing that the North Atlantic was "alive with German submarines", and that we were "having ships sunk day by day."

At the time this statement was made Naval Minister Angus Macdonald was absent in England. Now that he has returned to Canada, he has been questioned by newsmen regarding the truth of Gen. McNaughton's statement.

"Are ships being sunk day by day?" Mr. Macdonald was asked.

"No, certainly not," was the Naval Minister's blunt reply.

Gen. McNaughton's statement gave rise to questioning at the time it was made. It was pointed out that if there had been such frequent sinkings in the North Atlantic, it would hardly have been in the interests of military security to openly inform the enemy of the degree of his success. In fact, Gen. McNaughton's statement suffered from the first with a verbal inconsistency.

On the one hand, he declared that it was essential to keep out of the press any information about troop movements, "despite the wild and careless demands of certain newspapers." Yet, on the other hand, he gave out striking information about enemy achievements in the area of troops movements—information which, even if true, would under the circumstances have been wild and careless. Now it appears that it was not even true.

This disclosure of misrepresentation in the electioneering statements of the Defence Minister recalls the accusation of "outrageous and loose statements" which he hurled at Mr. John Bracken. It now appears that he was somewhat precipitate in throwing the first stone. Yet two wrongs have never made a right. Clearly enough, both Gen. McNaughton and Mr. Bracken succumbed to temptations that they ought to have resisted. In his story about the Home Defence troops throwing their rifles overboard Mr. Bracken would appear to have strained the texture of fact hardly less severely than did Gen. McNaughton in his story about the ship sinkings.

Such departures from the established truth are regrettable in any election, but in the election in Grey North they were particularly out-of-place. For the fundamental issue in Grey North was something far bigger and more searching than ordinary politics. The issue concerned the Canadians fighting overseas, their claims upon the home front, and the extent to which those claims are to be met. The election of a Progressive Conservative candidate in a constituency traditionally Liberal is in itself evidence of the way in which considerations larger than old party loyalties entered into the decision.

Both men would have better served their own interests and those of their parties had they adhered more closely to undisputed fact. Against the background of Grey North and of the issue involved this attempt to seek advantage by departures into the unfounded appears especially unfortunate. Indeed, in view of the more profound feelings that decided the outcome of the election, such deviations from political soundness were not justified even by political expedience.

It is obvious that neither the "rifles" story of Mr. Bracken nor the "sinkings" story of Gen. McNaughton had any appreciable influence upon the outcome in Grey North. The real issue was too clear to be aided by Mr. Bracken's claim of a comparatively minor failure of discipline. And it was too clear to be concealed by Gen. McNaughton's exaggerated claim of enemy interference.

Gen. Pearkes Says He Is Let Out; At His Own Request, Says Ottawa

Vancouver, February 15.—(C)—Maj.-Gen. George R. Pearkes, V.C., D.S.O., M.C.; former commander of Canada's 1st Division Overseas, today was relieved of his command as general officer commanding in chief, Pacific Command.

And, while Gen. Pearkes said he ceased to hold his command by order from Defence Headquarters, and Ottawa authorities said he had been relieved at his own request, The Canadian Press learned that he may enter federal politics shortly.

It was learned he had asked to be removed if certain recommendations he made were not acceptable to National Defence Headquarters.

Nature of the recommendations was unknown and Gen. Pearkes, asked for comment on his leaving his command said only, "I'd rather not say anything. Ottawa has the full details."

In a message to his officers and men the general who was a brigade commander overseas and took over the 1st Division when Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton became Canadian Corps Commander, said:

"By order from National Defence Headquarters I cease to be general officer commanding, Pacific Command, today."

In this message was a possible hint that the 56-year-old soldier and one-time bugler boy who rose to become one of Canada's most decorated soldiers, would enter politics.

The message contained this sentence:

"I deeply regret that circumstances now make it necessary for me to cease to be so intimately associated with the troops I have loved so long, but I hope opportunities will arise in which I can still render some service to you, to the men who are returning from the three services overseas and to the country as a whole."

If this forecasts the general's entry into federal politics he would be Canada's second general of this war to do so, Gen. McNaughton, his former chief, having taken over the Defence Department and only recently lost out in a bid for the Commons seat of North Grey.

SARGENT SUCCEEDS

Gen. Pearkes' successor, temporarily, will be Brig. Donald R. Sargent, officer commanding this combined operations school at Courtenay, B.C. and former officer commanding Vancouver defences.

Gen. Pearkes took over the British Columbia command in September, 1942, and in his message to his men today said that while the strategic position in the Pacific had improved, the possibility of enemy raids on Canada's Pacific coast had not altogether passed.

Ever a hard driver of men, the former Pacific Command general held strong views on the draftee question and wasted no words in saying he believed home defence troops, of which he had many in his command, should volunteer for service anywhere.

In the last year alone, he said, 10,000 men had left his British Columbia command for the European theatre.

Gen. Pearkes came to the Pacific Command from England at a time when the Canadians there, waiting to get into some fighting, were undergoing more and more arduous training. He drove them hard. He was a stern disciplinarian. But he earned their devotion and loyalty and himself the reputation among brother officers of being "Canada's best training general."

In this message Gen. Pearkes thanked the men for their support in the 2½ years that he had been in charge of them.

"On my arrival in British Columbia from overseas this province was threatened with the possibility of hostile raids," he said. "Although the likelihood of such action by the enemy has diminished owing to the general improvement in the strategic position in the Pacific, it has not altogether passed away."

His message said it consequently was "important" that troops be kept on this coast.

Since he became general officer commanding, he said 10,000 soldiers this year alone had left this command for duty overseas.

"I regret the circumstances which make it necessary for me to cease to be so intimately associated with the troops I have loved so long," he continued, "but I hope an opportunity will arise in which I can still render some service to you, to the men returning from the three services overseas and to the country as a whole."

Ottawa, February 15.—(C)—Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V.C., has been relieved of his command as general officer commanding, Pacific Command, at his own request, defence headquarters announced tonight.

Gen. Pearkes is 56, four years under the usual retirement age from home establishment commanders.

The headquarters statement gave no reason for what it said was Gen. Pearkes' "request" to be relieved. Nor was there any immediate comment on Gen. Pearkes' statement in a message to his officers and men today that he ceased to be general officer commanding "by order from National Defence Headquarters."

Gen. Pearkes took over Pacific Command in August, 1942, at the height of the threat of a Japanese invasion of Canada's Pacific coast, being recalled from the United Kingdom where he had commanded a Canadian infantry division.

He was closely linked with the draftee question and made no attempt to hide the fact he thought the draftee soldiers in his area should go active. He told them time and again that "no man should wear the khaki uniform unless he is willing to wear it anywhere."

He once defended his methods by saying: "I see nothing humiliating in trying to do my duty or encouraging others to do theirs. I did not win my V.C. by keeping my boots clean at Passchendaele, nor has any other recipient of that decoration won it by leaving things to the sergeant-major."

It was from the 6th Division, serving in his command, that most of the overseas conscripts were provided and it was in his area that many anti-conscription demonstrations occurred after the conscription order-in-council was passed.

Gen. Pearkes came to Ottawa and told his old chief, Defence Minister McNaughton, that he thought the voluntary method of recruiting had been milked dry but he was willing to give it one more chance.

It was after this that the government said the voluntary method had failed and conscription for overseas was adopted.

The only Canadian general officer on active service in this war to wear the Victoria Cross, Gen. Pearkes wears five wound stripes as evidence of his actions during the Great War.

One of his wounds resulted from a freak accident behind the lines. Playing baseball with a group of other officers, a player gave the home plate the proverbial tap with the bat preparatory to swatting one out. The plate had been given the self-same tap innumerable times previously. This time, the supposedly "dud" shell blew up, killing two men and wounding the future general in the stomach.

Gen. Pearkes said he received a telegram from National Defence Headquarters this morning advising him that Brig. D. R. Sargent would temporarily take command.

"I have no statement to make concerning the telegram," he said in an interview. "Any statement will have to come from Ottawa."

Following is Gen. Pearkes' statement:

"By order from National Defence Headquarters, I cease to be general officer commanding in chief, Pacific Command today, and am being replaced temporarily by Brigadier D. R. Sargent."

"I therefore desire to take this opportunity of thanking all ranks of this command, and the various units employed at the various headquarters, for the loyal support they have given me during the two and one half years that I have been in command here."

On my arrival in British Columbia from overseas this province was threatened with the possibility of hostile raids. Although the likelihood of such action by the enemy has diminished owing to the general improvement in the strategic position in the Pacific, it has not altogether passed away. It is therefore important that those troops which remain on this coast retain the highest possible standard of efficiency and discipline."

"During the past two years a great many soldiers who have received training in this command have proceeded overseas. This year alone more than 10,000 men have left British Columbia for the European theatres."

"All of this has meant an immense amount of work for those who are permanently employed in the various headquarters, nearly all of whom by reason of age or medical disability are themselves unable to serve in a more active

'Dishonorable' to Hold My Post Under Circumstances—Pearkes

Vancouver, February 16.—(C)—Failure of National Defence Headquarters to accept the views of Maj.-Gen. George R. Pearkes, V.C., on the question of sending Canadian home defence draftees overseas tonight was believed responsible for his resignation as General Officer Commanding in Chief, Pacific Command.

Concurrent with departure of the 56-year-old former commander of the 1st Division Overseas from the Pacific Command, was speculation on his future activities, linked with a report that he would enter politics in a British Columbia constituency in the next federal election.

In an interview today, however, he parried the question, saying: "I never considered politics at all in the past."

Gen. Pearkes said he resigned because "under existing conditions I was unable to render a loyal and conscientious service." To hold such an appointment "under such circumstances would be dishonorable."

He did not elaborate, but when asked "the recommendations made by him to Defence Headquarters concerned his ideas on the use of draftee soldiers for overseas duty," the general said: "That would be close to the mark."

Meanwhile in Ottawa Agriculture Minister Gardiner said Gen. Pearkes has been "acting for the Tories ever since he came back from overseas and there's no reason why he shouldn't run for them."

The Vancouver Sun published a denial of this from Gen. Pearkes. "I'd say further," Mr. Gardiner said in Ottawa in a telephone interview, "that statements by Gen. Pearkes and some of his officers have done more than anything else I know of to cause the high incidence of absenteeism in the army."

He added, without elaboration: "The story has been continuous."

ly coming out of British Columbia that the troops in the camps had been advised not to volunteer; that the act of volunteering would only be playing into the hands of the government and they ought to make the government compel them to go overseas."

(Officials at Defence Headquarters had no comment to make on Mr. Gardiner's statements.)

In Vancouver it was recalled that last November, Defence Minister McNaughton ordered an army probe into statements made by senior officers of the Pacific Command in connection with overseas service for draftees. Later the officers were exonerated of any infringement of army regulations.

Under him in Pacific Command English-born Gen. Pearkes, a former Royal Canadian Mounted policeman, had many units of home defence draftees but he has been outspoken in his views that any man wearing the army's khaki should be ready for service anywhere, overseas or otherwise.

A hint that Gen. Pearkes may enter politics was contained in a message to his officers and men, announcing his retirement last night. He said: "I hope opportunities will arise in which I can still render some service to you, to the men who are returning from the services overseas and to the country as a whole."

The Vancouver News-Herald said there was a report that Gen. Pearkes would be a Progressive-Conservative candidate in the federal constituency of Nanaimo. Party officials here declined comment. Nanaimo is represented in the Commons by a Liberal member, Lt.-Col. Alan Chambers, now overseas.

Gen. Pearkes said he had been relieved of his command by order of Defence Headquarters, but he did not disclose the recommendations he had made on which apparently there was no approval.

theatre of war, but by virtue of their unstinted loyalty and hard work they have been able to train and release those who are better equipped for active service.

"At this moment I find it difficult to give adequate expression to my feelings of admiration for all who have stood by me in the difficult and trying months."

"I deeply regret that circumstances now make it necessary for me to cease to be so intimately associated with the troops I have loved so long, but I hope opportunities will arise in which I can still render some service to you, to the men who are returning from the three services overseas, and to the country as a whole."

"I am sure that you will all give the same support and cooperation which you have shown me to my successor, who is known to a great many of you and who is himself another British Columbian."

The general, who once was a bugler boy in the British Army, is a former commander of the 1st Canadian Division overseas, a post he left to take the Pacific Command in September, 1942.

He made no statement concerning his resignation, beyond saying he would continue living in Vancouver.

During his time as Pacific Coast Commander Gen. Pearkes made several speeches urging Canadian men to volunteer for general service duty. At this time he had serving in his command several units of men conscripted for home defence duty only.

Brig. Sargent, 48, who succeeds Gen. Pearkes, has more than 20 years' army service and served in both great wars. He was born in Campbellford, Ont., and now makes his home in Nanaimo, B.C.

In 1940 he served overseas commanding the 6th Infantry Brigade.

'Day by Day Sinking' Held Only Figurative

Ottawa, February 16.—(C)—Navy Minister Macdonald indicated here today that there was no actual conflict between himself and Defence Minister McNaughton on the general's January 24 Grey North campaign speech statement that ships were being torpedoed day by day in the North Atlantic.

Replying to a reporter's question, Mr. Macdonald said that "such phrases as day by day or every day are often used in a figurative way to denote numbers."

He said he doubted whether "too literal a meaning should be attached to such statements, made that some ships had been sunk shortly before the general made the statement but ships 'certainly' had not been torpedoed every day."

Pearkes Asked To Be Relieved, Ottawa Insists

OTTAWA, Feb. 16.—(Star Special to Star Correspondent) — The Department of National Defence announced today that Gen. Pearkes has been relieved of the post of Pacific District Officer Commanding "at his own request."

It was stated that not in any sense has he been relieved but is still in the army, with full rank and pay, and is "valued into an officer post."

What recommendations Gen. Pearkes made which were not accepted and therefore led to his request to be relieved were not disclosed and that they had to do with "matters of policy."

The Pacific Coast G.O.C. It is said that certain ideas of policy were not in appeal to his superior, when these ideas were presented he asked to be relieved of his command and this was granted.

From what is learned here the fundamental difference derived from the question of conscription. Gen. Pearkes is not inclined to accept the policy of the present government. He was one of the most prominent officers supporting the conscription dispatch overseas of all draftees fit to go.

What are his political plans will be in Gen. Pearkes to divulge. Two rumors as to that have been reaching Ottawa from time to time. One is that he is inclined to throw in his lot with the C.C.F. Another is that he would link up with the Progressive Conservatives.

Meanwhile he is relieved of the Pacific Command but remains in the army.

Pearkes Statement

VANCOUVER, Feb. 16.—(C.P.) — In a message to his officers and men Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V.C., who was a brigade commander overseas and took over the 1st Division when Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton became Canadian Commandant, said:

"By order from National Defence Headquarters, I cease to be General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Pacific Command today, and am being replaced temporarily by Brigadier D. R. Sargent."

"I therefore desire to take this opportunity of thanking all ranks of the command, and the civil servants employed at the various headquarters, for the loyal support they have given me during the two and a half years that I have been in command here."

"On my arrival in British Columbia from overseas this province was threatened with the possibility of hostile raids. Although the



Maj. Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V.C.

likelihood of such action by the enemy has diminished owing to general improvement in the strategic position in the Pacific, it has not altogether passed away. It is therefore important that those troops which remain on this coast retain the highest possible standard of efficiency and discipline.

"During the past two years a great many soldiers who have received training in this command have proceeded overseas. This year alone more than 10,000 men have left British Columbia for the European theatres."

Much Work

"All of this has meant an immense amount of work for those who are permanently employed in the various headquarters, nearly all of whom by reason of age or medical disability are themselves unable to serve in a more active theatre of war, but by virtue of their unstinted loyalty and hard work they have been able to release those who are better equipped for active service."

"At this moment I find it difficult to give adequate expression to my feelings of admiration for all who have stood by me in the difficult and trying months."

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"I am sure that you will all give the same support and co-operation which you have shown me to my successor, who is known to a great many of you, and who is himself another British Columbian."

Pearkes Still Silent on Future Plans

Ottawa Refused To Accept Views

VANCOUVER, Feb. 17.—(C.P.) — Failure of National Defence Headquarters to accept the views of Maj. Gen. George R. Pearkes, V.C., on the question of sending Canadian Home Defence draftees overseas last night was believed responsible for his resignation as General Officer Commanding in Chief, Pacific Command.

Concurrent with departure of the 58-year-old former commander of the 1st Division overseas from the Pacific Command, was speculation on his future activities, linked with a report that he would enter politics in a British Columbia constituency in the next Federal election.

In an interview, however, he parried the question, saying: "I never considered politics at all in the past."

Gen. Pearkes said he resigned because "under existing conditions I was unable to render a loyal and conscientious service." To hold such an appointment "under such circumstances would be dishonorable."

He did not elaborate, but when asked if the recommendations made by him to Defence Headquarters concerned his ideas on the use of draftee soldiers for overseas duty, the General said: "That would be close to the mark."

Gardiner Charge

Meanwhile in Ottawa Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Agriculture Minister said Gen. Pearkes has been "acting for the Tories ever since he came back from overseas and there's no reason why he shouldn't run for them."

The Vancouver Sun published a denial of this from Gen. Pearkes. "I'd say further," Mr. Gardiner said in Ottawa in a telephone interview, "that statements by Gen. Pearkes and some of his officers have done more than anything else I know of to cause the high incidence of absenteeism in the Army."

He added, without elaboration: "The story has been continuously coming out of British Columbia that the troops in the camps had been advised not to volunteer; that the act of volunteering would only be playing into the hands of the Government and they ought to make the Government compel them to go overseas."

(Officials had no comment to make on Mr. Gardiner's statements.)

Cleared By Probe

In Vancouver it was recalled that last November Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, Defence Minister, ordered an Army probe into statements made by senior officers of the Pacific Command in connection with overseas service for draftees. Later, the officers were exonerated of any infringement of Army regulations.

Under him in Pacific Command English-born Gen. Pearkes, a former Royal Canadian Mounted policeman had many units of Home Defence draftees but he has been outspoken in his views that any man wearing the Army's khaki should be ready to service anywhere, overseas or otherwise.

A hint that Gen. Pearkes may enter politics was contained in a message to his officers and men, announcing his retirement on Thursday night. He said: "I hope opportunities will arise in which I can still render some service to you, to the men who are returning from the services overseas and to the country as a whole."

The Vancouver News-Herald said there was a report that Gen. Pearkes would be a Progressive Conservative candidate in the Federal constituency of Nanaimo. Party officials here declined comment.

Nanaimo is represented in the Commons by a Liberal member, Lieut.-Col. Alan Chambers, now overseas.

Gen. Pearkes said he had been relieved of his command by order of Defence Headquarters, but he did not disclose the recommendations he had made on which apparently there was no approval.

"I'd rather not say anything," he told reporters. "Ottawa has the full details."

Ottawa Statement

In Ottawa, Defence authorities said he had been relieved at his own request.

Brig. Donald R. Sargent of Courtney, B.C., took over the Pacific Command yesterday. He is the former Officer Commanding Vancouver defences.

HOW ABOUT GEN. PEARKES?

The resignation or removal of Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., as commander-in-chief of the Pacific Command, seems to call for a more complete and definite explanation than is to be found in the highly cautious Defence Department statement.

The General has said that "under existing conditions I am unable to render a loyal and conscientious service", and that to continue "holding my appointment under such circumstances would be dishonorable". Obviously, therefore, there is more to the story than the original statements reported.

Gen. Pearkes is one of Canada's outstanding soldiers, with a record for bravery and devotion to duty that has extended through two wars. He formerly commanded the 1st Canadian Division overseas, and for the past two and a half years has been giving notable leadership in his work on the Pacific Coast. He is four years under the age limit for retirement.

It is known, of course, that Gen. Pearkes has had large numbers of home defence troops under his command. It has been one of his duties during the past several years to try and persuade these men to enlist for active service. In this task he has not spared himself. In fact, he was sometimes criticized as a general for speaking to his men and trying to show them where their duty lay.

Once he defended his methods by saying: "I see nothing humiliating in trying to do my duty or encouraging others to do theirs. I did not win my V.C. by keeping my boots clean at Passchendaele, nor has any other recipient of that decoration won it by leaving things to the sergeant-major."

It is understood, too, that Gen. Pearkes was outspoken when Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton took over the Defence portfolio and called the district officers commanding together to discuss recruiting. After all, Gen. Pearkes had had more experience than any other man in Canada in handling the problem of changing home defence draftees into active service volunteers. After the conference he returned to the West Coast and led another determined drive to obtain recruits.

There was also the incident of the six senior officers under General Pearkes' command, who gave an interview to the press to the effect that methods of urging home defence draftees to volunteer had been completely exhausted. These officers were later officially exonerated of any infringement of army regulations, but the incident had many repercussions.

Now after several months comes the news that Gen. Pearkes no longer heads the Pacific Command, and the news has been greeted with surprise and regret in military and civilian circles on the West Coast, and, indeed, throughout Canada. Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture, has already injected himself into the affair with a contemptible political attack, and it is clear the matter cannot be allowed to rest. The Defence Minister should give a straightforward explanation at once, and if this is not forthcoming, Gen. Pearkes should feel free to tell the whole story himself at the first available opportunity.

Draftee Wins Habeas Corpus

(From Yesterday's Late Editions)

QUEBEC, Feb. 16.—(C.P.)—Mr. Justice Oscar Boulanger, in Superior Court today granted an application for a writ of habeas corpus entered by Pte. Roland Boucher, 22-year-old St. Croix de Lotbiniere, Que., soldier, who claims to be detained illegally in the army.

Boucher, a draftee stationed at nearby Lauzon military camp, is seeking to have authorities of Military District No. 5 (Quebec) show why they are keeping him in the army. He claims that on arrival for a long time and that on account of his "poor health" he should never have been conscripted.

Counsel for the army authorities opposed the issuing of the writ but the court overruled their objections.

Recently, a similar writ was granted Pte. German Folsy, 21, stationed at the Cove Field Barracks here, and today Mr. Justice Boulanger took under advisement a motion for details submitted by counsel for the military authorities.

SPECULATIONS RIFE ON PEARKES OUSTER

One B.C. Paper Says General
Was Opposed to Ottawa's
Policy in Pacific

'PROBABLY ANNOYED'

Another Believes 'Persuasion
Campaign' for Home Defence
Troops, Asked by Govern-
ment, Was Milked Dry

Vancouver, February 18. — (C)—The Vancouver Sun in a newspaper story Saturday said that "federal government policy in declining to maintain Pacific Command at peak strength as a jumping-off place for Canadian moves against Japan was seen in Ottawa today as one possible reason for the resignation of Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V.C., as general officer commanding-in-chief, Pacific Command."

The Sun added: "Meanwhile, reports persisted today in British Columbia political and military circles that Gen. Pearkes would enter federal politics under the Progressive Conservative leaders and the general himself kept a shroud of silence over the possibility."

"While National Defence Headquarters maintained a strict official silence, military sources said today that cabinet policy on Pacific Command matters as well as the general's draft - reinforcement policy caused Gen. Pearkes to disagree."

"One spokesman said that Gen. Pearkes was probably annoyed at the apparent loss of his chance to lead a Canadian force against the Japanese."

"Never a drawing-room general, he expressed the desire early in the war that he wanted to lead the first Canadian unit to enter Tokyo."

"Apparently the government decided that the danger of invasion on the Pacific coast had passed and that maintenance of a large army in Pacific Command was no longer necessary."

"It was this cabinet policy with regard to defence with which Gen. Pearkes disagreed, according to Ottawa sources."

"Whether or not Gen. Pearkes would get another military post was unknown today. "He told the Vancouver Sun that he was eligible for one but had received no offers yet."

"At present, attached to District Depot No. 8, he is 'sitting on the fence," a Pacific Command spokesman said.

Differed with Ottawa Chiefs

Vancouver, February 17. — (C)—The Vancouver News-Herald said in a front page story today that differences over a defence department order to step up the campaign to persuade home defence men to go active is the probable reason for the removal of Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V.C., as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Pacific Command.

The paper added: "It was reliably learned that the general opposed intensification of the persuasion policy, since provision was made to send home defence men overseas without volunteering."

Before involuntary overseas service was implemented in December, Gen. Pearkes was shown as the most successful general officer in Canada in persuading N.R.M.A. men to go active."

It is believed that he told the Defence Department he could not now conscientiously carry out the persuasion policy because home defence ranks had been milked dry of potential volunteers, and asked to be relieved of his command if the Defence Department persisted in having such a campaign here, the newspaper said.

Instructions were issued to all recruiting officers and commanding officers in the Dominion to conduct an energetic campaign among N.R.M.A. men to obtain as many conversions as possible before the men are sent overseas."

This order was connected with extension of the right to volunteer while on service overseas."

McNaughton Statement on Subs Is Found Alarming by N.Y. Times

(Special from The New York Times to The Gazette.)

New York, February 17. — (Saturday) — The New York Times, in an editorial titled "Fighting the Wolf Pack," this morning says,

At the time when it was a fair guess that our troops were at sea for offensives to come, it was alarming to read the assertion of the Canadian Defence Minister, Gen. McNaughton, that the Atlantic was alive with submarine boats and that our ships were being sunk "day by day." To be sure, he was electioneering, not only fighting for his seat in Parliament from Grey North but fighting to forestall a general election with all that this might imply to the present Canadian government. Unfortunately, his position gave an authority to his words, and many both in this country and in Canada must have read them with fear and disquiet. Now comes a tempered denial from the Canadian Navy Minister, Angus Macdonald, at least of "day by day" sinkings, although he does admit that U-boat activity has increased and is serious enough.

The battle of the Atlantic always has fluctuated. Off to a serious start, later it was checked for a while, only to break out to a far more alarming degree when the Germans adopted their wolf-pack tactics. Then came another turn in the fortunes of sea fighting and our convoys passed often unmolested or without loss. We sank many and appeared to have gained the upper hand. Still later, U-boats were hard to find, and false hopes, which rise so easily in war, caused many to think they had been beaten and the battle of the Atlantic had been won. But this was not quite so. New devices were installed that prompted Admiral Doenitz to boast that submarine boats threatened blows "greater than anything witnessed so far."

The latest report from official Anglo-American sources declare that, by making use of such devices, U-boats in January "penetrated farther into local areas of shipping close to shore," but it described counter-measures as "encouraging."

Earl Rowe Demands McNaughton Clear NRMA Gun Disposal Issue

Wexford, Ont., February 21. — (C)

—Hon. Earl Rowe, Progressive Conservative member of the Commons for Dufferin-Simcoe in Ontario said tonight that the people of Canada wanted to know whether or not the draftees sent overseas last month as reinforcements arrived there with their rifles.

In a speech prepared for delivery before the Wexford Progressive Conservative Association, Mr. Rowe said Defence Minister McNaughton had termed as a "diabolical untruth" the statement of John Bracken, Progressive Conservative leader, that draftees had thrown their rifles overboard.

(During the Grey North federal byelection campaign, Mr. Bracken asked Gen. McNaughton to tell the public how draftees had thrown their rifles and ammunition overboard after boarding troopships.)

"May I ask Gen. McNaughton," said Mr. Rowe, "a few questions the people now have a right to know?"

"1. Did this troopship load of N.R.M.A. soldiers land in Britain without their guns in the personal possession of the troops?"

"2. If they did, why?"

"3. How many of the troops were fined the price of their guns and 50 days pay?"

"4. If they didn't land in Britain without their guns, why has the answer been withheld since February 1 when Mr. Bracken demanded an answer?"

"Whether all these guns were left in the Halifax waters, or some of them in the water and the balance on the docks is not of importance. What the Canadian people want to know is—did our troops land without guns, and why?"

Gen. McNaughton, who was defeated in the Grey North byelection by Garfield Case, a Progressive Conservative, had repeatedly emphasized that he had sent over all the troops he had promised to send.

"That may be true, but three weeks ago Mr. Bracken asked Gen. McNaughton if he had fulfilled one single demand of our fighting forces overseas in full," said Mr. Rowe. "He has not answered. If he has failed to fill their demands in the past will he now promise to fill them in the future? Are the needs of our troops to be met by Gen. McNaughton's kind of promises or

by what our army headquarters overseas demand?"

Mr. Rowe said he challenged Prime Minister Mackenzie King to make public all documents, correspondence and memoranda regarding Gen. McNaughton's release from command of the Canadian Army overseas.

"I also challenge Mr. King to tell the people if the man he now says is to be minister of national defence, whether elected or not, was not relieved of his command overseas because he was either unfitted or incompetent for the task."

If Mr. King insisted on "flouting" the will of the people by retaining Gen. McNaughton as defence minister and continuing a two-army policy, then "I challenge him to set up a committee representative of all parties in the House to review the records of the echelon officers overseas and let the people have the facts regarding reinforcements during the past nine months," said Mr. Rowe.

Government members were saying that the Grey North byelection had been fought on a "phony issue."

"Let me tell these gentlemen the only issue in the Grey North byelection and the only issue today that is breaking the hearts of our boys overseas and their parents and sweethearts at home is the turning two-army policy of this government that has failed to adequately reinforce our troops."

"This is not a phoney issue to our fighting forces."

The continuance of a policy that has been so soundly repudiated and the usurpation of office by a minister so overwhelmingly rejected by the people is indeed a phoney expression of democratic government."

Mr. Rowe said that recently Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V.C., officer commanding the Pacific Command, "was forced to resign from service in this time of war crisis in protest against this faltering and fearful policy."

"Why does the government withhold the recommendations recently made by Gen. Pearkes and the true reasons for his resignation? Surely we are entitled to the benefit of this highly trained military authority."

Pearkes Prohibited Comment

Vancouver, February 21. — (C)—Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V.C., former commanding officer of the Pacific Command, said tonight that because of "recently published regulations" he could make no comment on a speech tonight at Wexford, Ont., by Hon. Earl Rowe, Progressive Conservative member of parliament for Dufferin-Simcoe.

Mr. Rowe said at Wexford that Gen. Pearkes was forced to resign from his command in protest against the government's army policy and asked why the government was withholding the recommendations made recently by Gen. Pearkes and the true reasons for his resignation.

Neither Gen. Pearkes nor National Defence Headquarters have announced the reasons for the general's removal from his Pacific Command post last Thursday.

Army Reserves Adequate, Says Defence Chief

McNaughton Declares Absentees Returning

From Sunday's Late Editions
DES of the mounting Canadian offensive on the Western Front. Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, Minister of National Defence, told The Star in an interview today that there are sufficient reinforcements to look after requirements for some months to come.

He added that the absentees were gradually returning or being rounded up and that all of them were being "appropriately dealt with."

Whether or not it might be necessary to dip further into the home army manpower pool he could not say. He explained, however, that the entire force was now available for general service and that little difficulty would be required to make it available if the necessity arose.

At present from 1,700 to 2,000 are being brought into the active army weekly but General McNaughton said these were recruits for "the long-range plan" as none would be sent for front-line duty or at least over months.

"Don't" To Blame

He blamed the absenteeism on a number of "naïfs" who, he said, had dominated new recruits in the former Army and had influenced them in making their decisions. However, a letter for overseas service had been filled, he said, and only one case was there of extra accommodation aboard a ship which left in Eastern port. This, he said, was not due to absenteeism among the overseas troops but was brought about by delays.

"The NEM problem was a difficult one to solve," General McNaughton said. "When it became necessary to send some of them overseas, we rightly gave them leave to return to their homes and families. Each man was ordered to return to the nearest examination point, but we were quite sure of the fact that many of them would be absent when sailing for home."

However, on officers had figured almost correctly what the total of absentees would be, and when the time came for the quarter transfer, he said, he explained the army had managed to "get the good fellows away from the bad fellows," and saw to it that now why they couldn't be allowed the same service as any other general officer. He said, "I am sure that the time they had been given the opportunity was when they reached England."

Won't Forget War's End

At present, Gen. McNaughton said, he was forming no conclusions as to how long the war would last. He said that the war effort was going ahead as it had been.

Look what happened to us last time, he said, everybody was saying the war would soon be over. Even high officials who had known better. As around everybody started to fall off. Had we not been over optimistic about the end of the war, we might have avoided it now. One thing is certain, he said, "I am sure that the time they had been given the opportunity was when they reached England."

General McNaughton said he was uncertain whether any of the line and he could not comment on reports from the battle front were relayed to him. He said that the army was out to do a job but required the help of everyone to see it through. He said that the army was suffering from lack of reinforcements, he said.

Pearkes Relieved of Post and May Enter Federal Politics

VANCOUVER, Feb. 15 (CP).—Major Gen. George R. Pearkes, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., former Commander of Canada's First Division Overseas, today was relieved of his command as General Officer Commanding in Chief, Pacific Command.

General Pearkes, 56, said he ceased to hold his command by order from Defence Headquarters, and Ottawa authorities said he had been relieved at his own request.

Independently of a hint of such plans in a statement by the general, The Canadian Press learned that he may enter federal politics shortly.

It was learned he had asked to be removed if certain recommendations he made were not acceptable to National Defence Headquarters.

Nature of the recommendations was unknown and Gen. Pearkes, asked for comment on his leaving his command said only: "I'd rather not say anything. Ottawa has the full details."

In a message to his officers and men the general, who was a Brigade Commander overseas and took over the 1st Division when Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton became Canadian Corps commander, said:

"By order from National Defence Headquarters I cease to be General Officer Commanding, Pacific Command, today."

In this message was a possible hint that the one-time bugler boy who

rose to become one of Canada's most decorated soldiers, would enter politics.

The message contained this sentence: "I deeply regret that circum-

stances now make it necessary for me to cease to be so intimately associated with the troops I have loved so long, but I hope opportunities will arise in which I can still



MAJ.-GEN. G. R. PEARKE
 V.C., D.S.O., M.C.

stances now make it necessary for me to cease to be so intimately associated with the troops I have loved so long, but I hope opportunities will arise in which I can still

render some service to you, to the men who are returning from the three services overseas and to the country as a whole."

If this forecast the general's entry into federal politics he would be Canada's second general of this war to do so, Gen. McNaughton, his former chief, having taken over the Defence Department and only recently lost out in a bid for the Commons seat of North Orey.

Gen. Pearkes' successor, temporarily, will be Brig. Donald R. Sargent, Officer Commanding the Combined Operations School at Court-enay, and former officer commanding Vancouver defences.

Gen. Pearkes took over the British Columbia Command in September, 1944, and in his message to his men today said that while the strategic position in the Pacific had improved, the possibility of enemy raids on Canada's Pacific Coast had not altogether passed.

Ever a hard driver of men, the former Pacific Command general held strong views on the draftee question and wasted no words in saying he believed home defence troops, of which he had many in his command, should volunteer for service anywhere.

Gen. Pearkes came to the Pacific Command from England at a time when the Canadians there, waiting

to get into some fighting, were undergoing more and more arduous training. He drove them hard. He was a stern disciplinarian. But he earned their devotion and loyalty and himself the reputation among brother officers of being "Canada's best training general."

In his message Gen. Pearkes thanked the men for their support in the two and one-half years that he had been in charge of them.

"On my arrival in British Columbia from overseas this province was threatened with the possibility of hostile raids," he said. "Although the likelihood of such action by the enemy has diminished owing to the general improvement in the strategic position in the Pacific, it has not altogether passed away."

His message said it consequently was "important" that troops be kept on this Coast.

Gen. Pearkes said he received a telegram from National Defence Headquarters this morning advising him that Brig. D. R. Sargent would temporarily take command.

"I have no statement to make concerning the telegram," he said in an interview. "Any statement will have to come from Ottawa."

Following is Gen. Pearkes' statement:

"By order from National Defence Headquarters, I cease to be general officer commanding-in-chief, Pacific Command, today, and am being replaced temporarily by Brigadier D. R. Sargent."

"I therefore desire to take this opportunity of thanking all ranks of this command, and the civil servants employed at the various headquarters, for the loyal support they have given me during the two and one-half years that I have been in command here."

"On my arrival in British Columbia from overseas this province was threatened with the possibility of hostile raids. Although the likelihood of such action by the enemy has diminished owing to the general improvement in the strategic position in the Pacific, it has not altogether passed away. It is therefore important that those troops which remain on this Coast retain the highest possible standard of efficiency and discipline."

"During the past two years a great many soldiers who have received training in this command have proceeded overseas. This year alone more than 10,000 men have left British Columbia for the European theatres."

"All of this has meant an immense amount of work for those who are permanently employed in the various headquarters, nearly all of whom, by reason of age or medical disability are themselves unable to serve in a more active theatre of war, but by virtue of their unstinted loyalty and hard work they have been able to train and release those who are better equipped for active service."

"At this moment I find it difficult to give adequate expression to my feelings of admiration for all who have stood by me in the difficult and trying months."

"I deeply regret that circumstances now make it necessary for me to cease to be so intimately associated with the troops I have loved so long, but I hope opportunities will arise in which I can still render some service to you, to the men who are returning from the three services overseas, and to the country as a whole."

"I am sure that you will all give the same support and co-operation which you have shown me to my successor, who is known to a great many of you, and who is himself another British Columbian."

Gen. Pearkes took over Pacific Command in August, 1942, at the height of the threat of a Japanese invasion of Canada's Pacific Coast, being recalled from the United Kingdom where he had commanded a Canadian infantry division.

He was closely linked with the draftee question and told draftees time and again that "no man should wear the khaki uniform unless he is willing to wear it anywhere."

He once defended his methods by saying: "I see nothing humiliating in trying to do my duty or encouraging others to do theirs. I did not win my V.C. by keeping my boots clean at Passchendaele, nor has any other recipient of that decoration won it by leaving things to the sergeant-major."

It was from the 6th Division, serving in his command, that most of the overseas conscripts were provided and it was in his area that many anti-conscription demonstrations occurred after the conscription order in council was passed.

Gen. Pearkes went to Ottawa and told his old chief, Defence Minister McNaughton, that he thought the voluntary method of recruiting had been "milked dry," but he was willing to give it one more chance. It was after this that the Government said the voluntary method had failed and conscription for overseas was adopted.

The only Canadian general officer on active service in this war to wear the Victoria Cross, Gen. Pearkes wears five wound stripes as evidence of his actions during the First Great War.

One of his wounds resulted from a freak accident behind the lines. Playing baseball with a group of other officers, a player gave the home plate the proverbial tap with the bat preparatory to swatting one out. The plate had been given the self-same tap innumerable times previously. This time, the supposedly "dud" shell blew up, killing two men and wounding the future general in the stomach.

Pearkes Quit After Clash

Recommendations Regarding Men For Overseas Rejected at Ottawa

A clash with Defense Minister A. G. L. McNaughton over overseas reinforcements was credited today with having precipitated the resignation of Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, VC, Canada's most decorated general, as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Pacific Command.

Gen. Pearkes' resignation, announced Thursday, came four years short of the normal retirement age for home establishment commanders.

It is the third time that Pearkes and McNaughton have crossed swords on army policy.

DIFFERED ON DIEPPE

In 1942, according to Ottawa military sources, they differed on attack methods in the ill-fated Dieppe raid.

Late in 1944, Gen. Pearkes went to Ottawa and told Defense Minister McNaughton that he thought the voluntary method of recruiting was "milked dry."

The latest difference—the one which forced him to resign, was the rejection by National Defense Headquarters of certain "recommendations" Gen. Pearkes made since adoption by Ottawa of its 16,000-draftees-for-overseas policy.

Today, Gen. Pearkes announced his resignation in a statement in which he said flatly:

"Circumstances made it necessary for me to request that I be relieved of my command because under existing conditions I was unable to render loyal and conscientious service."

OTTAWA ISSUED ORDER

"To continue holding my appointment under such circumstances would be dishonorable."

"Consequently, National Defense Headquarters issued an

order that I ceased to be GOC, in chief, Pacific Command, forthwith. Those instructions were dated Thursday."

Gen. Pearkes declined to disclose the nature of the recommendations he was reported to have made to Ottawa.

USE OF DRAFTEES

It is understood he asked to be removed from his command if NDHQ failed to accept them.

Asked if the recommendations concerned his ideas on the matter of using draftee soldiers for overseas duty, he said:

"That would be close to the mark."

In Ottawa, Army officers maintained a tight-lipped silence on the recommendations.

General A. G. L. McNaughton,

Defense Minister, is ill with a cold, and could not be reached for comment.

WOULD BE DISHONORABLE

Meanwhile, Gen. Pearkes' charge that to remain GOC-in-Chief, Pacific Command under existing circumstances "would be dishonorable" released a buzz of speculation in Ottawa and Vancouver.

Military sources in Ottawa today said it was "common knowledge" that Gen. Pearkes had been in dispute with Defense Minister McNaughton ever since the ill-fated Dieppe raid of August, 1942.

Gen. Pearkes had been opposed by Gen. McNaughton, they said, on a scheme of aerial bombardment prior to the Dieppe raid.

The ex-Pacific Command GOC-in-Chief was at that time commander of the 1st Canadian Division.

He returned to Canada a month later, in September, 1942, to assume his Pacific post.

There was a culmination of differences between Gen. McNaughton and Pearkes last November 21, when Ottawa ordered an investigation of statements made by Pacific Command and Sixth Division senior officers in a press interview in Vancouver under the authorization of Gen. Pearkes.

The officers at that time said that the men in their command would not go overseas unless told to by Ottawa.

Lt.-Gen. E. W. Sanson came to Vancouver from Ottawa to probe the interviews, and later stated the officers had been exonerated of any "infringement" of Army regulations.

Hint that Gen. Pearkes might enter politics came in his farewell message to his troops Thursday, in which he said:

"I hope opportunities will arise in which I can still render some service to you (his soldiers), to the men who are returning from the three services overseas and to the country as a whole."

Ottawa sources indicated today that reports had been prevalent two months ago that Gen. Pearkes planned to run as a Progressive-Conservative candidate in a Vancouver riding.

Declining to confirm this, Gen. Pearkes this morning said:

"I never considered politics at all in the past."

NOT QUITTING ARMY

A permanent force officer, Gen. Pearkes has not retired from the Army.

He said he would be attached to District Depot XI at Little Mountain for the time being.

At 56, he is still four years under the retirement age for home establishment commanders.

His successor as GOC in Chief Pacific Command, Brig. D. R. Sargent, is en route by boat to Vancouver from Prince Rupert to his new duties.

"IF OPPORTUNITIES ARISE"

In the message to his officers and men the general who was a brigade commander overseas and took over the 1st Division when Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton became Canadian Corps commander, said:

"By orders from National Defense Headquarters I cease to be general officer commanding, Pacific Command, today."

"I deeply regret that circumstances now make it necessary for me to cease to be so intimately associated with the troops I have loved so long, but I hope opportunities will arise in which I can still render some service to you, to the men who are returning from the three services overseas and to the country as a whole."

DANGER NOT ENDED

In another part of the message he said that "although likelihood of (enemy) raids has diminished owing to the general improvement in the strategic position in the Pacific, it has not altogether passed away."

"It is therefore important that those troops which remain on this coast retain the highest possible standard of efficiency and discipline."

TO SERVE ANYWHERE

He was closely linked with the draftee question and made no attempt to hide the fact he thought the draftee soldiers in his areas should go active.

He told them time and again that "no man should wear the khaki uniform unless he is willing to wear it anywhere."

He once defended his methods by saying: "I see nothing humiliating in trying to do my duty or encouraging others to do theirs."

"I did not win my VC by keeping my boots clean at Passchendaele, nor has any other recipient of that decoration won it by leaving things to the sergeant-major."

'BEST TRAINING GENERAL'

In the last year alone, he said, 10,000 men had left his British Columbia command for the European theatre.

Gen. Pearkes came to the Pacific Command from England at a time when the Canadians there, waiting to get into some fighting, were undergoing more and more arduous training. He drove them hard. He was a stern disciplinarian.

But he earned their devotion and loyalty and himself the reputation among brother officers of being "Canada's best training general."

In his message Gen. Pearkes thanked the men for their support in the 2½ years that he had been in charge of them.



HON. J. G. GARDINER
Raps Maj.-Gen. Pearkes

Men Told Not To Volunteer —Gardiner

By THOMAS WAYLING
Vancouver Sun Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA, Feb. 16. — "Gen. Pearkes has been running as a Tory ever since the war started."

This was the comment this morning of Hon. J. G. Gardiner, referring to the resignation of Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, VC, and the report that he will run as a Tory candidate in Nanaimo against Lt.-Col. Alan Chambers, now overseas.

Gen. McNaughton could not be reached, but Mr. Gardiner expressed very definite opinions to The Vancouver Sun on the matter. Mr. Gardiner intimated that Gen. Pearkes had been "acting as a Tory organizer ever since he took over the Pacific Command."

Mr. Gardiner also said: "I was told by officers who came back to the prairies from the Pacific Command that men had been advised not to enlist voluntarily as that would be helping the government if they did so, and to my mind this is responsible for some of the men going absent without leave."

National Defense Headquarters remained definitely silent on the matter and refused any further information.

It is common knowledge that General Pearkes has not been seeing eye to eye with General McNaughton, the trouble dating back to the Dieppe expedition.

The Pacific GOC was under fire some time ago when five of his senior officers expressed public opinions on the conscription issue contrary to military regulations. An investigation was made but the report was considered here as a whitewash.

The trouble among the draftees in the Pacific Command aroused further criticism of General Pearkes who was in charge of the situation.

Other senior officers have been retired from time to time but this is the first time an official statement from National Defense Headquarters stated that a general officer commanding had been "relieved of his command" even though the saving clause "at his request" was included.

PEARKES SAYS HE'S OUT BY HQ ORDERS

Was Removed at Own Request, States Ottawa; Sargent Commands

Major Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., was apparently removed as general officer commanding in chief, Pacific Command, Thursday because his recommendations did not meet the approval of National Defence Headquarters.

Though Gen. Pearkes would make no direct comment on the telegram which Thursday morning told him he was no longer in command here, in a farewell message to his troops, he said:

"By order from National Defence Headquarters, I cease to be General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Pacific Command today, and am being replaced temporarily by Brigadier D. R. Sargent.

"I deeply regret that circumstances now make it necessary for me to cease to be so intimately associated with the troops I have loved so long, but I hope opportunities will arise in which I can still render some service to you, to the men who are returning from the three services overseas, and to the country as a whole."

In Ottawa Thursday night, national defence headquarters said Gen. Pearkes had been removed "at his own request." No reason was given for his "request."

He is 56, four years under the usual retirement age for home establishment commanders.

Gen. Pearkes, a permanent force officer, has not retired from the army, but is attached to the district depot at Little Mountain for the time being.

His successor, Brig. Sargent, was in Prince Rupert Thursday and will reach Vancouver by air shortly to assume his new duties.

It was reliably learned here that Gen. Pearkes had asked to be removed if certain recommendations he made were not acceptable to Defence Headquarters.

E.C. DEFENCE FACTOR

Though the nature of the recommendations is not known, in another part of his message, Gen. Pearkes said that "although the likelihood of (enemy raids) has diminished owing to the general improvement in the strategic position in the Pacific, it has not altogether passed away. It is therefore important that those troops which remain on this coast retain the highest possible standard of efficiency and discipline."

(Reports circulating here in December that Pacific Command might revert to peacetime status as Vancouver Defences were later denied by Defence Headquarters.)

The general's removal Thursday came as a surprise to military circles here and apparently to the general himself.

Regret at Gen. Pearkes' "removal" was expressed in army circles.

"The general was in there plugging right to the last," one officer said, pointing out that Gen. Pearkes had spent Monday and Tuesday inspecting Pacific Coast Ranger detachments in the Gulf Islands and instructing them on future duties.

Gen. Pearkes, known as the officer who persuaded the largest number of home defence soldiers to go active, may have differed with the defence department on manpower policies.

He pointed out Thursday that "this year alone more than 10,000 men have left British Columbia for the European theatres." So,

Rumor Pearkes As Candidate For Pro.-Cons.

Should Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V.C., be retired from the army and enter politics, it would probably be under the Progressive Conservative banner in a riding in or near Vancouver.

Though declining to comment on whether he had political plans Thursday, Gen. Pearkes said he would make his home in Vancouver, if retired.

One report declared he would run as Progressive-Conservative candidate in Nanaimo in the next federal election, opposing Lt.-Col. Alan Chambers, present Liberal member now overseas.

DRAFTEE STAND

His strong stand on the draftee question is typified in a statement made some time ago that "no man should wear the khaki uniform unless he is willing to wear it anywhere."

Progressive-Conservative circles were silent Thursday night on whether plans to nominate Gen. Pearkes had been discussed.

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Friday, February 16, 1945

Major-General Pearkes, V.C.

The resignation of Major-General G. R. Pearkes, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., a permanent force officer with a distinguished record in two world wars, is now announced, and the intelligence will be received by large sections of the public with genuine regret. Until the reasons for this step have been made clear speculation would be futile. The trend of experienced and fine soldiers away from the present military dispensation in Canada is becoming marked, and the public is beginning to wonder what is the reason for it. Men like Major-General Pearkes, three times decorated on the field of battle, do not quit without cause. The announcement, made first by unnamed officials of the Pacific Command, should be followed by more explanation at Ottawa.

Major-General Pearkes was a great favorite with the officers and men of the original Canadian Corps, C.E.F. He won the Military Cross, the Distinguished Service Order and finally the Victoria Cross for outstanding courage and daring in the Great War. Between wars he became attached to the permanent forces of Canada with field rank, and volunteered immediately for action at the outbreak of the present conflict. He was chosen to command the new Canadian First Division, and served in that capacity overseas until the Autumn of 1942, when he returned to Canada. His appointment as General Officer Commanding in Chief of the Pacific Command followed, and that post he has filled with distinction and credit since.

In his capacity as commander of Canada's defence problems on the Pacific, General Pearkes earned and won the respect of all with whom he came in contact. On his shoulders largely fell the onus and responsibility of organizing adequate civil and military defences in the West, at a time when there was in all truth some need of them. With the services, and three armed services were correlated in that effort, he became extremely popular; and with the general public not less so. Until more official explanation is given the public will remain in the dark, and, what is more, confused by this continued drain of good men from our war effort. What does it mean?

Text of John Bracken's Address

PARTIAL text of an address delivered by Hon. John Bracken, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, at the Third Annual Meeting of the Dominion Progressive Conservative Association, at Ottawa, last evening.

We are now in the sixth year of the greatest war in human history. Insofar as Canada is concerned, this war has been run by one Party. It is a Party which has shown rank discrimination and gross favoritism in its choice of those who must risk their lives in battle. The question the Canadian people must answer is whether we are to have from this time on a measure of equality of sacrifice or whether we are to have a continuation of discrimination and favoritism in matters that affect the lives of nearly every family in the nation.

Many things . . . young Canadians (I saw overseas) told me. I saw and talked with men in the ranks, with N.C.O.s, with junior officers, and with field officers of the highest category, and they made me feel a warm glow for their youth and courage, for the land that bred them, and for the parents who raised them. Had any of those boys as I did, you would have spoken even more strongly than I did in Grey North. You too would have carried the message the boys sent home with me—they asked no favors, but they felt they were entitled to the assurance of all possible help, in the way of trained reinforcements, for the fighting ahead was to be bitter and there were to be heavy casualties.

What can those men who have been given a month's leave after five years of war—what must they feel when they see remaining here in Canada tens of thousands of home draftees who have never heard a gun fired in conflict?

Permanent Leave

It is time we removed the scales from our eyes and saw things clearly. Not only should the few men now on leave who have been away five years be allowed to remain here but the vastly greater number of five-year men overseas and not on leave ought to be given it, and it ought to be a permanent leave.

It was with this picture vividly in my mind that I spoke in Grey North. I used plain language there. Is there one among you who would have done less? As I said there, I am not given to strong words. But when young Canadians told me that they had gone without adequate trained reinforcements, when they gave me the message to bring back home that they needed not only trained reinforcements but the assurance that the nation was behind them; when I saw them back of the line after three or four or five years of the abnormal environment of war and nearly two years of battle, I would have been made of stone had I not spoken clearly to the nation they had left. I would have failed in my clear duty had I not spoken for their need was great and the time was short, and heavy fighting lay ahead.

And Grey North gave its answer to their call. And in that answer it gave expression to the nation's will. I spoke in words that none can fail to understand.

And in that stinging rebuke to the Government's unfair call-up, its double standard army system and its wishy-washy reinforcement plan, Grey North spoke not for itself alone—it spoke the innermost thoughts of the nation as a whole. And by that voice, the men who are in the fighting line have been heartened because they know now that no matter where the government stands, no matter where their former Commander stands, no matter what political tricks he may indulge in; Grey North's voice they know that the heart of the people is sound and that the nation will find a way to correct the inequities of the past and stand with its fighting men.

Flouts Parliament

And the meaning of Grey North has not been lost on Canada, even though Mr. King tries to ignore it. He not only ignores the verdict of Grey North but he flouts Parliament and defies public opinion throughout the country.

Mr. King wants to prove he believes in democracy, but he changes his unfair and

soundly rebuked by the voters he appealed to for election. But the people must not be misled by diverting propaganda whether of a blundering or a skillful type.

The man who gave that answer to my challenges has proved by his record that both his policies and his announcements are unreliable. Let me refresh your memories.

General McNaughton is the man who took the Defence portfolio from Colonel Ralston, whose only offence—and for which he was dismissed by Mr. King—was that he asked that trained reinforcements be sent from the only available source, Mr. King's Home Draft Army.

General McNaughton is the man who misled the nation when he told the people that the District Officers Commanding had said the so-called voluntary system would work. In this, he simply didn't tell the truth, as Brigadier MacFarlane's letter of resignation so clearly showed.

General McNaughton is the man who, on November 22nd, said the principle of the draft for overseas service was no good and who, on November 23rd, supported it. He is the man who went into the Cabinet to prevent the sending of drafted men overseas and who stays in office to carry out a policy of sending some of them overseas—a policy he has said time and again he doesn't agree with and is morally wrong.

General McNaughton is the man who, at Camp Borden, on January 10th said his concern was not so much for men as for supplies. Yet at that very time he knew that more than 6,000 draftees, on being warned that they were to be sent overseas, were absent without leave. At the very moment General McNaughton made the statement that reinforcements did not concern him, but supplies did—at that very moment, in the hands of editors across the nation was a censorship directive respecting the matter of men absent without leave. HeTre have been disorders and men had deserted, but the Government's orders were that the facts must not be published! That censorship directive was issued on January 2nd. The censors issued it at the request of the Department of National Defence, General McNaughton's Department. Yet, eight days later, with the facts hidden from the public by the censor's orders, General McNaughton told the press at Camp Borden that men were not his concern but only supplies were.

Flat Contradiction

General McNaughton is the man who, to get himself elected, told people of Grey North that ships were being torpedoed "day by day," and so unnecessarily gave anguish to the parents of troops who were about to go overseas. His own colleague, the Minister for Naval Affairs, repudiated this statement by a flat contradiction.

And that is the man who tells you that what I said at Meaford, during the Grey North by-election, is a "diabolical untruth." Let us look at the facts.

At Meaford I did make certain statements. I shall repeat them here. I said that General McNaughton employed the dictatorial powers of censorship to hide the truth from the Canadian people. I said it was only thanks to the freedom-loving press of Canada that the truth was forced into the open. I said you would not have known the truth even today if the freedom of the press had not been asserted.

Then I went on to say,—"I quote from that speech, because there is no excuse for the misrepresentation it has been given. This is what I said:

"You know that more than 6,000 draftees deserted on being told they would proceed overseas. Let General McNaughton tell you about those who were sent over. Let him tell you what happened. Let him tell you the whole sordid story. Let him tell you why some of those men arrived in Britain without their rifles which they are expected to have. Let him tell you about how they threw their rifles overboard. Let him tell you how they threw their ammunition overboard. Let him tell you the truth, which is a condemnation of the complacency, the lack of leadership, the inept mishandling of the entire manpower problem in this nation."

What I said at Meaford, General McNaughton calls a "diabolical untruth." Well, then, let us have the truth. Let us have the facts and nothing but the

since General McNaughton became Minister of Defence, that enquiry must be held in public, open to the people and the press. The Royal Commission must have powers to enquire into every circumstance of calling up, compulsory allocation, desertion, discipline, disturbances and the payment of reinforcements overseas, since the present Defence Minister took office. Anything less will leave the people in doubt and our lads overseas uncertain as to how the strength of their units is to be maintained. As long as a real effort is made to do this quickly, and the enquiry is kept free from political interference, all the essential information could be obtained in a very short time.

For far too long this Government has been permitted to hide behind security regulations. When facts the public had a right to know were demanded, the Government kept them shrouded in secrecy, using the excuse that it aimed, in the public interest for them to know the truth, or that there were reasons of security for keeping them in the dark.

At the beginning of the war when troops went overseas without proper equipment, the Government refused to permit the facts to be revealed. The reason for that secrecy was not the welfare of our troops, but protection of the Government that had bungled.

The Hong Kong Expedition

The same was true of the expedition to Hong Kong. In that expedition, men were sent to fight a vicious and crafty enemy without even their basic training completed. And when the people demanded the truth of the lack of training and of sending of men without proper equipment, once again the censorship regulations were misused.

Yet the Government blocked the facts. And the only reason that they did so was to hide their failure, their inefficiency, their mishandling of an expedition that cost so dearly in lives of young Canadians and in even greater numbers who are now in a Japanese prison camp. Had the Government permitted full light on the whole situation of the Hong Kong expedition, incompetence would have been exposed, faults would have been earlier remedied, and hazards to young lives would have been lessened.

The C.C.F. Setback

There were many other lessons in the results of Grey North, many in addition to the ones I have mentioned. There were not only the lessons taught this government on its two-army system, on the unfair call-up, on reinforcements, on the piecemeal draft, and on General McNaughton, there was also a lesson on the C.C.F. That party suffered a severe setback. Its candidate lost his deposit. He got less votes in a by-election of National importance than the C.C.F. candidate got in the Provincial election of 1943. And that setback was for good and obvious reasons.

The record of the C.C.F. party taken since Hitler marched into Poland in 1939 is enough to condemn it in the eyes of all Canadians interested in victory.

The record of Mr. Coldwell and his party is clear for all to see. It is written in the C.C.F. reports, in the House of Commons Hansard, and in the speeches of C.C.F. leaders.

So little did the C.C.F. understand the menace of the forces that had set out to conquer the world that the C.C.F. opposed the sending of any men, even volunteers, to fight Nazism. No expeditionary force, even of volunteers, said Mr. Coldwell. And that was not his view alone. It was the view of his whole party, as he himself stated in the House of Commons.

Even as late as May, 1940, when France had fallen, when the dark forces of aggression were so overpowering, when the Nazi troops were singing that today they would conquer England and tomorrow the world—even then Mr. Coldwell opposed sending any men, even those who were volunteers, to fight the menace that was engulfing the whole civilized world.

How could a government be trusted that would be made up of men who opposed Canada sending volunteers to help our partners resist the might of the German war machine? What trust can anyone have in the judgment of the C.C.F. when in one of the world's darkest hours it opposed this nation sending

he changed his course and voted with the Government in its resolution of confidence. And later in Grey North the public and the speakers told the public his party was now in favor of full conscription for overseas service. What stock can anyone take in the judgment or pronouncements of that party after such twistings and turns as this? The C.C.F. was repudiated by the Grey North voters because the people of that riding knew that Party's war record, and had no confidence in its administrative capacity. No last minute conversion could cover the record of the party so enmeshed in isolationism, and whose policy in pre-war as in war years has been so bad, both for the nation as a whole, and for the men overseas.

Playing Politics

The lesson of Grey North with regard to the C.C.F. is clear for all to see. When the most precious thing of all was involved the lives of young Canadians doing the fighting—the C.C.F. let politics determine its course, forgetting that in time of war nothing matters so much as the safety of the men who are locked in deadly struggle with the enemy in order that we at home can live and breathe as free men, in a world of free men.

The C.C.F. now says it is in favor of conscription for overseas service. But it was only the angry voice of the nation demanding help for the lads who needed it so much, that caused the change of heart. It was not a conviction on the part of the C.C.F. It was only the C.C.F.'s fear of the nation's voice as it rose louder and louder, insisting that reinforcements be sent to the men who needed them that made it trim its sails and reverse its course.

The voters of Grey North knew the C.C.F. war record for what it was and is a politically expedient one, totally inconsistent from beginning to end. So do all others who have followed that party's course during the bitter years of war. Its course on manpower has been even more reprehensible than that of Mr. King's.

The C.C.F. was repudiated in Grey North and Mr. King was shown the handwriting on the wall. This country now looks to the Progressive Conservative Party for bold and courageous leadership and that leadership we must not fail to give.

The Progressive Conservative Party from its inception in Winnipeg in December 1942, has not deviated from the course there laid down on the whole matter of manpower. It has stood for a fair, not an unfair call-up; for one army, not two; and for adequate reinforcements.

Why is it that there is so much bitterness and recrimination in the nation? Why is there so much disunity at a time when we should have the greatest unity? Why is there a feeling of frustration in the hearts of some? Why a feeling of cynicism and latent bitterness in the breasts of many? I so recently visited overseas?

The reason to me is simple and clear. It is because instead of doing what was fair in the call-up for the fighting forces, instead of a policy with some approach to equality of sacrifice in the winning of the war, instead of keeping that great objective in sight from the beginning and before the beginning, the Government has insisted on playing regional politics in a matter where human lives were at stake—insisted on playing off one part of the country against another, for no more worthy end than partisan political advantage.

Divide and Rule

Divide and rule has been Mr. King's policy. Not for the unity and strength of the nation has he followed this highly dangerous and inflammatory course, but for his Party's advantage and his own political ends. In this world war to save democracy, one section of Canada now knows its human resources have been drawn upon unfairly. In this world war to save our Christian civilization from extinction, another section of Canada now knows it has been cruelly and unnecessarily sacrificed—first by the Government's promise of its abstention from war and later by the Government's reversal to the compulsory draft. By this devious course this section of the nation has been left misunderstood and misrepresented before the world and before history in the greatest human crisis of all time.

What greater condemnation can there be of any public

Even were the war over tomorrow, the need today for an equitable, sound policy on the draft of manpower is urgent. There is nothing that causes so much dissatisfaction as the sense of injustice, of unfairness, of discrimination. I at no time has there been equal-ity of service, any apt at-tempting that the humanists of war were evenly victorious the nation.

Can we ever hope have unity that way? What sense of injustice is there in the progress of this war? It will be retarded for a generation if Canada is ever to develop into a great nation, the basis for the peace must be cleared. The simple fact is that the nation can survive and I shall thus turn by disunity in itself. Had enough? There are forces loose in the land and over which we have no control. But to cause such a policy is an unforgivable crime against the nation. This nation can yet be of its heritage. It has its spirit and its love and its ability to resist aggression. Two terrible wars within a century. At this time, it has shown out its capacity on its farms, factories, in its research, in its schools and in its offices. It remains but for me and our eleven million associates to accept in full one standard of respect from sea to sea, one measure of equal sacrifice for all—two or three or four. It remains but for us to make of this island one nation of Canadians, regardless of race or creed or economic calling, all its citizens before the law—equal in opportunity, equal in responsibility in times of peace, and equal in sacrifice in days of war.

THREE A GENTLEMAN WINNIPEG, March 3 (C.P.)—The bandit who held up the Sherbrook pharmacy here Wednesday night and escaped with \$150 after taking a shot at Mildred Glin, a clerk, at least was a gentleman. He telephoned her last night to apologize, but she was out. "Tell her I'm sorry I took a shot at her," he said, hanging down the receiver.

Fully-Trained Reserves Available Says Minister, Answering Bracken

In a statement replying to charges by John Bracken, Progressive Conservative national leader, that troops proceeding overseas had their rifles overhauled

1. One man boarding a troopship Jan. 2 threw his rifle and kit from the gangplank in the mistaken hope that his action would keep him in Canada, even if in detention. This was a single isolated incident.

Text of Statement

On Friday evening, John Bracken of the Progressive Conservatives repeated a statement which has done more to injure Canada's reputation than any other political propaganda employed during the war.

He said again that Canadian troops proceeding overseas had thrown their rifles into the sea. He said that he stood by that statement. The last time he made that statement, being blurred forth 24

it, it was being blasted for hours later from the Nazis' frontline loud-speakers as a taunt designed to undermine the morale of Canadian troops and create dissension between them and their Allies. Fortunately, we had been able to ascertain the truth of the case quickly and pass it on to our men before the enemy broadcast the falsehood.

The truth was simply this: One man boarding one troopship on Jan. 2 threw his rifle and kit from the gangplank in the mistaken hope that his action would keep him in Canada, even if in detention. This was a single isolated incident.

(Defence Headquarters announced Sunday that Pte. W. H. Smith of Sidney, B.C., had been sentenced overseas to 18 months' detention after pleading guilty to charges of throwing his rifle and two kit bags into the sea during a recent troop movement to Britain.)

But John Bracken's gross exaggeration was quickly snatched up

and re-exaggerated. The Germans used it for propaganda, and it was spread among our friends as well as among our enemies. The United States Senate was told that between 15,000 and 18,000 Canadian troops had thrown their rifles overboard. Denials, however prompt, could not erase the blot on Canada's prestige, which still then, thanks to her war effort, was at the highest in her history.

The damage was irreparable; the unvarnished truth of the insignificant incident that lay behind the Bracken charge was there for all to read. It should have been an occasion for regret by any man in public life that, however honest his mistake, he had harmed the reputation of his country and her armed forces.

Charge Repeated

Instead of regret, there has come from John Bracken a repetition of his charge, with a consequent additional tarnish applied to Canada's honor. We are doing what we can to offset it by repeating the denial and even releasing particulars of the one offender's court-martial and sentence, but we cannot hope that this will counteract the further wanton damage done to our country.

Let me make this clear again. The most careful enquiries have been made, both in Canada and overseas. There is nothing to indicate that there was any other incident of the kind described during these movements of troops to the United Kingdom.

Bracken asked: "Why are we
dismissing over 6000 without
refits?" The insinuation is obvi-
ous. The truth is the common
knowledge of every soldier who
has crossed the Atlantic on a
troopship and so it would have
been available to Mr. Bracken
and to anyone else who may have
been interested.

New Rifles Issued

Since reinforcements began to go overseas several years ago, many men have disarmed in the United Kingdom without rifles, and not because they threw them into the sea nor because they were anything but good soldiers. At the outset, it was because they turned their rifles in before they left Canada, and received a new issue over an earlier pattern — went back for use by our fast-growing army in training.

More recently, their rifles, now of the latest mark, have travelled with them, but many commanding officers have arranged that small arms be boxed and stored in the ship's magazine or hold with other equipment not required on the voyage. The rifles are re-issued at the port of disembarkation or at a depot in the United Kingdom.

The reason for this arrangement, authorized for the sake of convenience, will be understood by any man who has crossed in a crowded troopship during this war or the last. I am sure that there are those among Mr. Bracken's advisors who could have answered

...a question and so, perhaps, still
mother blackening of Canada's
good name might have been avoid-
ed.

Ignorance Charged

There must have been those close to him, too, who could have corrected the ignorance shown in Mr. Bracken's "challenge" to me to tell whether reinforcements have been supplied up to the full limit of the 'demands' of Canadian military headquarters in London since I took office as National Defence.

Minister of National Education. They could have told him that in war you do not select for men in the same way as you might cable: "Send us a dozen typewriters in a hurry." You do not send "demands." You estimate, to the best of human ability, that since campaigns involve casualties, placements will require so many men, and of what arms and trades and special qualifications, six months or more ahead. Thereafter, you revise your estimate, every month or even more often, to bring it closer into line with developments as they occur. But the main needs must be known at least a half-year in advance, so that the training programme at home may be adjusted to requirements. Every properly-organized army in the world seeks to work that way.

Crisis Averted

Although last autumn it seemed that a crisis in reinforcements might possibly occur in January, that crisis did not become a reality in the field. The anxiety last fall we might not have enough trained men in Europe for this spring's campaigns was removed by the measures taken and by the progress of events.

Throughout 1944, reinforcements were adequate in total numbers, but they were not always where they were wanted most. Just after D-day, before it was possible to transfer the administrative machinery and the depots to France, some units were temporarily short, and some men arriving at units did not have the special training those units required and with the rapid advance as the line of communication lengthened, there were, of course, inevitable delays in forwarding reinforcements which had to wait their turn in getting transposed. Such incidents happen in every army that ever fights a great battle. The reinforcements may be in readiness, but occasionally some of them may arrive at the wrong place or else arrive late.

Unfortunately, at that period long before I took office—at least one officer used such a local incident to misrepresent publicly the whole broad situation in which Canadian troops were performing so important a part, and the Progressive Conservative party promptly pounced on his statement and exploited it for party ends.

Ahead Of Schedule

This partly is still an endeavor to squeeze from it the last of what it deems to be a political advantage. Here I give again direct answer to Mr. (Israel) challenge. Our reinforcement program is fulfilled according to plan and in fact the number of detached soldiers in the front line are well above the scheduled number. The Progressive Servatives continue to assert there is a shortage of reinforcements.

With certainty, I say that the Army today is fully provided with the reinforcements it requires. Our infantry units are fully reformed and the

Another Soldier, Not Draftee, Seeks to Quit Army by Way of Courts

Mr. Justice Fabre Survever reserved judgment yesterday on the merits of a petition asking that a writ of habeas corpus issue against the military authorities to compel them to liberate Laurent Vezeau from the Canadian army.

This is the third petition now pending in Superior Court on which freedom from military service is demanded on behalf of soldiers alleged to be physically unfit for army training; but in the instance of Vezeau, Gerald Fautoux, K.C., representing the military authorities, told Mr. Justice Surveyer that the soldier-enlisted in the Canadian army was not a draftee.

The Court reserved its decision on the merits of the petition after Mr. Fauteux submitted four grounds on which he said it should be rejected. First, counsel argued that the Montreal court had no jurisdiction because Vezeau was detained in barracks at St. Jerome in which judicial district the petition should be presented. Secondly, the petition was directed against Maj.-Gen. E. J. Renaud, Col. Brosseau and Col. Echenberg, and counsel contended the petition could be valid only against the commanding officer actually detaining the soldier.

In the third place, Mr. Fauteux said that the petitioner, Henri Nolin, lacked valid status in the case. In the petition he did not claim authorization to take action or allege that he was a relative or friend of the soldier. Lastly, counsel declared that the allegation that the doctors had erred on certifying that Vezeau was physically fit for military service could not be accepted as a reason for the issue of a writ of habeas corpus. If there was a grievance on medical grounds, the military would take care of it. He argued, would be by way of appeal to a military board of examiners for revision of report of Vezeau's physical condition.

L. J. Barcelo, attorney for petitioner, replied that any judge of the Superior Court had jurisdiction to order that a writ of habeas corpus be issued; that the petition was legally directed against three commanding officers, as there was uncertainty which of the three officers named was actually detaining the soldier; that where liberty of the subject was restrained any citizen was competent to seek remedy through habeas corpus, and the Superior Court, counsel for the petitioner, was competent to pass judgment, in the light of medical evidence, on the physical fitness of an individual who had been enrolled for military service.

Culprit Identified As Pte. W. H. Smith

OTTAWA, March 5 — (C.P.) — Defence Headquarters announced last night that a field general court martial in the United Kingdom has imposed 18 months' detention on Pte. W. H. Smith after he pleaded guilty to charges that he threw his rifle and two kit bags into the sea during a recent troop movement to England.

The departmental statement, which did not identify Smith further, said the information was contained in a message received at Defence Headquarters from Canadian Military Headquarters, London, Eng.

Statement Given

The announcement said that during the court martial proceedings Smith said:

"On Jan. 2, 1945, as I was crossing the gangplank, embarking on the ship for overseas, I deliberately threw my rifle and two kit bags overboard. I figured the military police would take me off the boat when I did this. I do not know the number of the rifle, as I had just received it the night before. The following day I received my 'two kit bags on board ship.'"

In announcing the court martial findings, Defence Headquarters said the "most careful inquiries have been made both in Canada and overseas; there is nothing to indicate that there was any other incident of the kind described during these movements of troops to the United Kingdom."

Bracken Charges

During the recent by-election campaign in Grey North, John Bracken, national leader of the Progressive Conservative party, said drafted men had thrown their rifles overboard en route overseas. Hon. A. G. L. McNaughton, Defence Minister, in a subsequent statement, termed Mr. Bracken's remark a "diabolical untruth," and said the one man who had thrown his rifle and equipment overboard had been appropriately dealt with."

In addressing the annual dinner of the Progressive Conservative Dominion Association here Friday, Mr. Bracken said he refused to accept Gen. McNaughton's "unsupported statement" and that he had sought to "sidetrack main issues."

Mr. Bracken challenged the Government to appoint a royal commission to conduct a broad investigation into reinforcements, desertions and discipline since Gen. McNaughton became defence minister.

Defence Headquarters announced today that Pte. W. H. Smith came from Sidney, Vancouver Island, B.C.

"It now is revealed that the soldier in question is K-574552, Pte. William Harold Smith, Sidney, Vancouver Island, British Columbia," said the defence department announcement.

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In a free country there is much clamor with little suffering; in a despotic state there is little complaint but much suffering.
 —Coruot.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, MARCH 3.

DEEDS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.

Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King in his radio address yesterday evening appealed to the Canadian people to abandon their strife and divisions and to give him their united support.

This support was asked for on two grounds. In the first place, the Government, he says, deserves united support from the people because it has consistently sought to avoid controversy—even the excuse for controversy.

In the second place, the Government wishes the cooperation of the people in its strong desire not to hold a wartime election. And a wartime election is undesirable because Grey North has illustrated how elections can divert attention from the critical needs of the war. More than this, the sons of Canada "are fighting and dying as Canadians without distinction," and Canadians ought to follow their example by obliterating wartime distinctions at home.

The excellence of the grounds of his appeal is admirable. There is obviously nothing better than that a people should be united in the support of its wartime government, and that this government should carry the people through the war with such basic satisfaction that there would be no wish to express discontent in the usual democratic procedure of an election.

But in considering the Prime Minister's speech, the true question is not its apparent excellence but its inner consistency; not its eloquence, but its genuineness. And when the speech is examined, neither its consistency nor its genuineness remains as its most remarkable feature.

The Prime Minister says that his Government deserves united support because it has consistently sought to avoid strife and controversy. It would seem that we have here an impressive divergence from the facts. For the essential wartime policy that his Government adopted and to which it has adhered—the policy defining the unequal terms on which men should share the sacrifices and perils of war—has been at the very root of the bitter strife and the deep divisions that have come to characterize wartime Canada. Yet the Prime Minister now asks for united support on the ground that he has sought always to promote unity and wishes to continue his work of reconciliation.

Then, there is the second ground of the Prime Minister's appeal—his desire to avoid a wartime election. This desire might in itself be commendable. Indeed, there would be no serious desire and no urgent occasion for a general wartime election if the people of this country were as obviously satisfied with their wartime Government, as are the people of Great Britain.

Such, however, is not the case. The Canadian Government is not constructed on non-partisan lines, for this is a development that the Prime Minister has steadfastly resisted. The very fact that Mr. King found it necessary to make yesterday's appeal reflects the dissatisfaction which his day's appeal reflects the dissatisfaction which his day's government has provoked. No less strikingly does it reflect the extent to which it has lost touch with the present state of feeling among the Canadian people.

Certainly, in selecting Grey North as an illustration he showed a doubtful taste. For he cites Grey North as an example of how attention may be diverted from the critical needs of war. It happens, however, that the Prime Minister himself caused the Grey North by-election, by his determination to change defence ministers in mid-stream. And he was determined to change defence ministers in mid-stream because he was determined to have as his defence minister a man who would adhere as closely as possible to that

BRACKEN RETURNS TO THE CHARGE.

John Bracken's address to the annual meeting of the Dominion Progressive Conservative Association in Ottawa last evening is the corollary of his campaign speeches in Grey North last month. To the possible criticism that it does not, as it might have been expected to, carry the party to new ground following its notable victory over the Minister of National Defence, it may be answered that the situation itself has not noticeably altered: General McNaughton is still at his post, and his policy does not appear to have been amended in response to the message addressed to him by the voters.

Mr. Bracken has not receded an inch from the position he took at that time. If anything, he spoke even more strongly last night than he did during the election campaign. He repeated the statements he made then, and he now challenges the Government, by the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the reinforcement situation since General McNaughton took office, to let the Canadian people know the truth.

There is little reason to suppose that the present Government, in its pressing difficulties, will accede to this demand. But the challenge to reveal the facts is a valid one, and it is on that ground that the Conservative leader has based his latest approach to the issue. Into the Grey North result he reads a national demand that the "government's unfair call-up, its double standard army system and its wishy-washy reinforcement plan" must go. This verdict is being ignored by the Government, Parliament is being flouted and public opinion defied, he believes.

"Canada doesn't want the double-standard or the piecemeal draft," he declares, and he proclaims the course he has set himself is to rid the nation of the discriminatory two-army system and "creating in its place a system that is fair to all."

It may be that the course of events will operate to end the discriminatory army system before Mr. Bracken's campaign succeeds in doing so. But nonetheless he has made a powerful appeal for the restoration of frankness and honesty in government. The confidence that was shattered by the crisis of last November has never been recovered, and recent events have confirmed the opinion that it will never be repaired in the life of this Government.

The title of the Conservative leader's address, "Equality of Sacrifice or Discrimination and Favoritism?" is the keynote of its appeal. "There can be no unity when the burdens of war are unfairly laid on any section of the country," is the theme that pervades his message. "Equality of responsibility and equality of sacrifice are both essential to the unity of any nation, whether in peacetime or in war," but the Government's policy has led to gross injustices and divisions which have undermined the unity of the state, he believes.

Mr. Bracken has taken up where he left off in Grey North. Having taken a firm stand there, he does not propose to abandon it. It might have been hoped that he would have availed himself of this opportunity to expound the lessons the campaign held for his own party and to warn against the dangers of over-optimism. But with his general thesis that the Government's conduct of the nation's internal affairs has exacerbated the problem of unity only the prejudiced can disagree.

Draftees Likely Key Election Issue

OTTAWA, March 3 — (Star Special by Staff Correspondent) — Questions whether draftees are to be conscripted for the Pacific war contribution for the Canadian Army and, also whether Canadian Army forces to be sent against Japan, will be composed entirely of draftees, portend political controversy comparable to that which arose over the resort to limited overseas conscription last November.

Conceivably if the general election comes after Germany's defeat, before about early July next, questions of whether and how conscription is to be applied touching the Canadian Army against Japan may become one of the predominant issues of the campaign.

Party Stand Clear

The Progressive Conservative party, at its annual meeting here last Saturday, unanimously adopted this resolution: — "We stand for the abolition of the two-army system operating in Canada and that all N.R.M.A. personnel (draftees) shall be required to serve in any theatre of war."

At the November-December meeting of Parliament, Gordon Graydon, Opposition leader, made plain the Progressive Conservative party stand as to draftees, particularly that they be required "to serve in any theatre of war." Mr. Graydon stated in the Commons, quite definitely, that this included the Pacific theatre.

While there have been official statements by Hon. Angus L. Macdonald, Navy Minister, and Hon. C. G. Power, then Air Minister, that Canadian land and air units participating in the Japan war will be on a voluntary basis, nothing official has been stated whether army units would be on a similar basis, but the fair assumption is that all branches of the armed forces would be on a common basis.

Size of Force Involved

Likewise, while the Government has given no official intimation yet as to the size of army units to participate in the Pacific war, it has come to be generally understood that it is likely to be confined to one division with a division of reinforcements. It is further understood the Government believes no difficulty would be encountered in securing adequate volunteers for two army divisions in the Pacific and thus conscription of draftees could not be necessary for that theatre. Such army procedure for a Pacific, it is pointed out, would be in line with the Government's policy, "conscription if necessary, not necessarily conscription."

From highly placed Conservative sources it was learned today that they would have to have advice from ranking Canadian and United Kingdom military officers as to the need to be sent against Japan before they could decide the point to which draftees only would be sent to the Pacific theatre.

THE FIRST CANADIAN ARMY

WITH the desire of The London Daily Telegraph that United Kingdom troops should receive full public credit for their share in the great offensive now proceeding west of the Rhine, the Canadian people will be in hearty agreement. When dispatches mention the First Canadian Army the correspondent cannot always take time out to explain that that army is not wholly Canadian, any more than when he mentions the British Eighth Army in Italy he can be careful to explain that it is not composed wholly of United Kingdom troops.

But to say that the First Canadian Army is composed 75 per cent of British troops and 25 per cent of Canadian, does not make it any the less the First Canadian Army. This process of adding troops of other nations to national armies has been going on ever since the war began. The famous British Eighth is a composite army, containing Indian, Canadian, United Kingdom and, at times, New Zealand and Australian troops, but it has always been known in dispatches and gained world renown as the British Eighth Army. We do not know that at any time since the desert campaign, or even then, it has contained a majority of United Kingdom troops. We do know, however, that it contains a Canadian corps, and that that is one of the reasons why the First Canadian Army on the Rhine does not contain a higher proportion of Canadian troops.

Ross Munro, the Canadian Press correspondent, clarifies the status of the First Canadian Army when he writes that "for the Northern Rhineland offensive General Crerar had under his First Canadian Army command a large number of British formations which, with Canadian formations, made up the biggest force ever led by a Canadian general." An army is a flexible unit; it does not contain a fixed number of unit formations and

for purposes of a particular battle may be enlarged or diminished. For the North Rhineland battle the First Canadian Army was enlarged. It might have been enlarged by American, French, Polish or other national troops, but it was, in fact, enlarged by the addition of United Kingdom formations. But it remained the First Canadian Army just as, in this war, the British Eighth Army retained that name in dispatches and, in the last, the famous United Kingdom divisions retained their name despite the addition of Canadian Corps troops for particular engagements.

A Sense of Military Honour

Le Droit (Ottawa): A spirited debate is taking place in the Quebec Legislature over conscription for overseas service. The attitude taken by Lt.-Col. Sauve, who recently returned from Europe, is worth emphasizing. Here is what the member for Two Mountains said: "This motion condemns a decision of the Minister of National Defence and blames the Prime Minister of Canada for having applied conscription for overseas service. An officer cannot refuse to obey and must not discuss a decision of his superiors. I belong to the Canadian Army and General McNaughton is its supreme head. During the last Federal session some officers voiced their opinions, but that was upon a question then under study. Now, the decision is taken and executed. I have already given my opinion, and I will one day discuss this question in the light of my experience gained during six months on the battlefield. My attitude is one of obedience to a rule I am forbidden to depart from." The conduct of Lt.-Col. Sauve in this discussion is that of an officer and a gentleman, conscious of his duty and, above all, respectful of his military superiors. This officer represents the county of Two Mountains in the Quebec Legislature. He belongs to the National Union party. He is, moreover, a former Conservative whose father was a Cabinet Minister under Bennett after having been for many years a leader of the provincial Conservative party in Quebec. Politically, he might have taken advantage of participation in this debate. But Lt.-Col. Sauve holds another conception of military honour and authority. He did not imitate the conduct of those Anglo-Canadian officers who like Major-General Pearkes, played politics with the question of conscription for overseas service while still a member of the Canadian Army. The attitude of Colonel Sauve offers a lesson to the clique of Anglo-Canadian colonels who tried to lead the Government by the nose, and who, wittingly or unwittingly, sowed the seeds of anarchy in the Canadian Army.

Conscription Provokes Heated Debate at Quebec

Entire Sitting Devoted to Issue; Motion Deplored by Liberal Speakers

By Henri St. Pierre
Star Staff Correspondent

QUEBEC, March 1.—The whole afternoon in the Legislative Assembly, yesterday, was again devoted to the vexatious question of conscription for overseas service. Apart from two or three speeches worthy of special mention, the sitting was marked by points of order, the submission of an amendment by the Liberal opposition sponsored by a former Speaker, Hon. Cyrille Dumaine, a vote against a decision of Speaker Tache, declaring the amendment out of order, which resulted in the Speaker being upheld 46 to 33, a majority of 13 for the N.U. forces. The Bloc members sided with the Government, while the C.C.F. members voted with the Opposition. The House adjourned at six o'clock, till this afternoon.

No less than 23 members participated in the hectic debate on the Liberal opposition amendment and the decision of the Speaker as to its being out of order. The participants in order of precedence were L. P. Lizotte, Lib., Kamouraska, George C. Marler, Lib., Westmount, Dennis O'Connor, Lib., Huntingdon, Hon. Onesime Gagnon, Provincial Treasurer, who led the House in the absence of Premier Duplessis, Hon. Laurent Barre, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Leon Casgrain, Lib., Riviere du Loup, Rene Chaloult, Hon. Valmore Bienvenue, Lib., Bellechasse, A. Lesage, N.U., Abitibi, Hon. Omer Cote, Provincial Secretary, Andre Laurendeau, Bloc leader, A. Lemieux, Bloc, Beauharnois, David Cote, C.C.F., Rouyn-Noranda, Hon. J. A. Francoeur, Lib., Mercier, Henri Drouin, Lib., Abitibi, Hon. J. H. A. Paquette, Minister of Health, Dr. J. A. Leclaire, N.U., Charlevoix-Saguenay, Maurice Hartt, Lib., St. Louis, Jos. Filion, Lib., Lake St. John, and J. H. Plourde, Lib., Arthabaska.

Marler Denounces Motion

In outspoken terms, Mr. Marler said he had no hesitation in voting against a motion whose only result was to show Quebec up in a bad light to other provinces and abroad, without giving a fair picture of the part played by Quebecers in the war.

In fostering the impression that Quebec is not doing its share, "the author of the motion is ably seconded by other extremists in Canada. But is it not time to call a halt and to direct our energies towards vindicating the good name of our province? Let us stop talking about how the Federal Government should conduct the war and instead show how we are doing our share and will continue to do so," said Mr. Marler.

In his introductory remarks, the Member for Westmount said he would not go back to the Boer war or even the 1914-18 conflict to explain his views on the motion now before the House.

"In September 1939, when the Parliament of Canada assembled to consider a declaration of war against Germany, Mr. King, the Prime Minister, promised in the name of his Government, that there would be no conscription for overseas service. Later events, unhappily, explained why Canadian policies had to be changed gradually, to meet the necessities of the hour.

"The Invasion of Poland, which commenced without warning September 1, 1939, was completed in a very short time and on September 27, Warsaw, its heroic capital, was surrendered and the Polish campaign was virtually at an end. Then began a period of comparative quiet and when the Federal election was held in 1940, no doubt unaware of the events ahead, all political parties promised that they would not resort to conscription for overseas service and the Liberal Party was returned to Ottawa in March 1940."

Reviews Events

Mr. Marler reviewed subsequent events, the invasion of Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg. Later again, Italy declared war on France, just when the Germans were invading it from the north.

In the face of such crushing reverses, Mr. Marler said, the Canadian Government introduced and obtained the adoption of the National Resources Mobilization Act in June 1940, which authorized the Governor-in-Council to require persons to place themselves at the disposal of the Government with their property and their services, for the defence of Canada and the efficient prosecution of the war, but with the restriction that these persons would not be obliged to serve outside of Canada.

Canada Imperilled

Then came the air raids on Britain, Mr. Marler said. People in Canada who dared look in the future knew that unless Britain could hold out, the existence of Canada as an independent nation was in mortal danger.

"Those days seem to be a long way back in our history, and we are apt to forget the state of apprehension in which we then lived," Mr. Marler said. "Fortunately the Nazis decided against an invasion of Britain and turned their attention eastward. Rumania was invaded, and a few weeks later Italy attacked Greece. A month later Hungary, Rumania and Slovakia joined the Axis, and I may remind the Honorable Member for Quebec County that 'joining the Axis' is not like joining the Bloc Populaire, because once you are in the Axis you are there to stay, and the Nazis are there to stay with you."

"In January of the following year, 1941, Germany and Russia renewed their 'pact of friendship'; in March, Bulgaria also 'joined the Axis' and on April 6 — no doubt in order to rescue their Fascist friends — the Nazis attacked Yugoslavia and Greece. The British, who had gone to the assistance

of the Greeks, had to evacuate both Greece and the Island of Crete. Again it was a case of 'too little and too late.' On June 22 Germany — no doubt as a mark of the friendship which she had renewed in January — invaded Russia, and on April 6 — the Nazis had overrun the remainder of Poland, the whole of the Baltic states and a very large part of Russia. The tide of war continued to rise and fall also along the shores of North Africa.

Release Sought From Pledge

December of the year 1941 witnessed the surprise attack of the Japanese on Pearl Harbor and the declaration of war by the United States against Japan, Germany and Italy. The months which followed were the darkest days of the war. The Japanese captured Hong Kong and Singapore, the Dutch East Indies and the Philippines, and threatened to overrun Australia, while the Nazis continued their forward march in Russia to the gates of Stalingrad. The combined forces of the Italians and Germans commenced their attempt to reach the gates of Alexandria. It was in these depressing circumstances that Mr. King and his Government decided to appeal to the people of Canada in order to be released from the promises which had been made to them in September 1939.

"Following the plebiscite of April 27, 1942—the results of which are a matter of common knowledge—the Federal Parliament repeated section 3 of the National Resources Mobilization Act so that thereafter the territorial restrictions on the powers of the Government no longer existed and the Government became free to send any person in the world that it seemed advisable for the efficient prosecution of the war."

In July of that year—1942—the tide of battle turned, and the Nazis were halted but a few miles from Alexandria, and in November of 1942, the Americans landed in North Africa, and in 1943 the Nazis and their Italian Allies had been expelled from Tunisia.

Canadian Part Lauded

I shall pass very quickly over subsequent events, which are fresher in our memories, but I would like to remind you that a portion of the Canadian Army participated in the invasion of Sicily in the summer of 1943 and later in the campaign in Italy, and that we still have two divisions fighting on that front.

I would remind you also that other Canadian divisions participated in the invasion of Normandy and their achievements in the fighting around Caen, Falaise and Carpiquet will go down in history. We may justly take great pride in their record as they fought from the beaches of Normandy north through Belgium, to the Scheldt and later to Holland."

It must be admitted, he continued, that the number of casualties in the various operations was far above those estimated and that, therefore, the question of reinforcement and not to be considered as an academic question.

These motions, Mr. Marler said, have no effect except to create elsewhere in Canada, in the United States and abroad the impression that Quebec is making and has made no contribution to the war effort of the nation.

Most of the other members spoke only for a few minutes either on the point of order raised against the Liberal amendment or on the Speaker's decision. L. P. Lizotte, Member for Kamouraska, said that he would vote for the motion because of his opposition to conscription for overseas service.

Deplored by O'Connor

Dennis O'Connor, Huntingdon, said he regretted that the subject had been introduced in the House at such a crucial moment in the world conflict. It would not change the decisions taken at Ottawa by one lot, because the latter were founded on information completely lacking in the Legislative Assembly, and would help to maintain the rupture in national unity brought about by recent events.

Mr. O'Connor said he was against conscription for overseas service, but he felt that the decisions taken by the central government, with the membership fully alive to the necessities of the hour, should be respected, and the Legislature of Quebec be kept within the bounds of its jurisdiction.

Futile Says Hartt

Maurice Hartt, Liberal, Montreal, St. Louis, stressed the futility of such motions as that sponsored by the member for Quebec County, aimed at hurting the Premier of Canada, the head of the Canadian Government. If the House meant only to declare itself once more against conscription, he said, the only fair way to do it was to submit another motion against that policy.

Mr. Hartt remarked that Mr. King was not only the leader of the Liberal party, but the head of the Canadian Government, chosen by the elected representatives of the people to direct the administration of the country. He might disappear by death or resignation. Who would replace him? Whoever would be chosen would still be speaking for the Government of Canada. Therefore a motion directed against the head of a Government by name was not only ridiculous, but injurious to the majority for which he was acting.

Dumaine Submits Amendment

Hon. Cyrille Dumaine, Liberal, Bagot, submitted his amendment asking the Federal Government to return to voluntary service as the only means to win the war. Conscription, he claimed, had been the result of an infamous conspiracy against Premier King. Mr. Dumaine claimed his amendment would enable all anti-conscriptionists to vote against it, without introducing a political element in the motion.

Hon. Onesime Gagnon, for the Government, claimed that the amendment was out of order, because, he said, it would mean, if adopted, the full abrogation of the motion. This point of view was sustained by Hon. Laurent Barre and others, including the Bloc leaders, while the Liberals main-

tained that the amendment was perfectly in order, citing the rules of the House to support their contention.

Hon. Adelard Godbout said that the amendment aimed only to ask the Federal Government to return to the system of voluntary enlistment.

When a number of speakers had expressed their opinion, Speaker Tache decided that the amendment was out of order. This ruling was appealed against, with the result that his decision was sustained.

Enter the Swashbuckler

DEMAND for explanation of the retirement of Major-General Pearkes from the Pacific Command is met by the appearance of Hon. J. G. Gardiner, minister of agriculture, as the government's official spokesman.

It is a characteristic choice. Mr. Gardiner, a political swashbuckler of the old school, can say things that more responsible members of the government would not, could not and dare not say.

That is precisely what Mr. Gardiner has done in alleging that General Pearkes has been running as a Tory ever since the war started and that his officers had urged draftees not to enlist for general service as in doing so they would be helping the government.

A more malignant distortion of General Pearkes' war service in general and of his work on the Pacific Coast in particular could not be easily imagined. Of his work in general his record speaks for itself. As for his effort to persuade the draftees to enlist for overseas service no man could have labored more assiduously than General Pearkes to perform that hopeless task. Here again his recorded words and deeds give the lie to the slander Mr. Gardiner has uttered.

It is for Premier King or General McNaughton to unsay the words of the minister of agriculture and to give the public a full and frank explanation of the circumstances under which the services of one of this country's greatest soldiers have been dispensed with. The people of Canada will be content with nothing less.

Official explanations should have immediately followed the order relieving General Pearkes of his command. They were called for before J. G. Gardiner launched his scandalous allegations and in more insistent degree they are called for now.

6 Months Canadian Enlistments Disclose Grand Total of 39,090

Ottawa, March 9.—A revised compilation today of official recruiting figures showed that in the last six months enlistments totalled 39,090 with 23,028 coming from the general public, 11,036 from the home defence army and 3,006 from the reserve army.

(The Canadian Press last night erroneously reported these figures as 30,799, 19,579, 9,174 and 2,040, respectively. These lower totals resulted from the use of weekly average figures for the five weeks ended September 30 and the four weeks ended October 28 instead of the totals for those periods.)

Enlistments for the six weeks ended March 3 totalled 10,813, high-

est figure for similar periods during the last six months. Recruiting from the reserve army, however, totalled only 600 compared to the previous high of 735 for a five-week period ended September 30.

Following corrected table shows enlistments during the last six months:

	Public	Reserve	Army	N.R.M.A.	Tot.
Five weeks ended Sept. 30	3,075	735	1,010	6,220	
Four weeks ended Oct. 28	3,132	406	792	4,420	
Six weeks ended Dec. 9	5,223	597	3,640	9,460	
Six weeks ended Jan. 20	5,275	496	2,404	8,177	
Six weeks ended Mar. 3	7,523	680	2,610	10,813	
Total	25,028	3,006	11,036	39,090	

DESERTER CHECKS PROVE PROFITABLE

Examination of Papers at Local Railway Stations Said Satisfactory

Male travellers of military age using the railway stations for their Montreal exits and entrances yesterday had their credentials checked and the initial yield justified the undertaking to the extent that it will be continued, it was learned last night at R.C.M.P. headquarters. The move accounted for the apprehension of a score of army deserters. It was stated.

With the R.C.M.P. and members of the Provost Corps working together, civilians of military age arriving and leaving, were halted. Though primarily in search of deserters, they also had to deal with men who did not possess their national registration cards or whose military discharge papers were not in order. Men who were outside the age limit were not intercepted. No congestion resulted from the check and those asked to produce their papers did so willingly.

This action is another step in the intensified program to apprehend army deserters. The program started a few weeks ago when Federal and military police visited dance halls, night clubs and ice cutting operations where men are engaged without having to go through any N.S.S. formalities.

Supt. Josephat Brunet, of the Quebec R.C.M.P. division, found the work had proven its value. Inspector W. M. Brady is in charge of the Montreal raids and Inspector Frank Zeneth, of the outside raids. Lt.-Col. W. H. Draper, M.C., assistant provost marshal, is in charge of the military police.

MARCH 3, 1945

THE C

THE FRONT PAGE

Behind The Riot

LOOSE talk by demagogues, reckless of the truth so long as their personal profit could be served, has flowered in a riot at Drummondville, Que. Only the coolness of the police under stress prevented open battle and fatalities.

Free speech within reason is permitted in this country. But free action countering the Law cannot be tolerated in any country. Whether the Law is approved or not does not enter into the question. Even if it were clearly unjust, which it is not, the duty of the citizen is to obey it under protest, and strive legally for its amendment or abrogation.

The moment violence begins privileges of the individual end. The duty of government is to govern. If police are under orders to carry out the law they should be supported to the last limit against all disorderly elements. Otherwise government is contemptible.

The Toronto Star denies that the Drummondville riot was "an outburst against the Canadian Government's vacillating conscription policy," as it had been termed by one of the injured reporters; the Star says it was an outburst against conscription, by whomever imposed and in whatever manner.

No doubt it was, under the immediate circumstances. But it was also the product and result of vacillation by governments of Canada over at least the last three decades. For this trouble showed itself in acute degree in the last war, and it has never been grappled with since then. It has simply been ignored. On this truly fundamental issue, Canada emulated the ostrich, with results now all too plain.

The time to win the people of Quebec to a different way of thinking about their province's place and responsibilities in Confederation was between the wars, or rather immediately after the last one in which French Canadian feelings had been made so evident. But instead of attempting this, successive governments at Ottawa were ruled by considerations of what was politically best for the party in power. Even after the beginning of World War II, Mr. King solemnly promised Quebec that his government would never impose conscription, an undertaking he had no right to enter into, since obviously he should have left himself free to take whatever action the future needs of the country might require.

If a number of men make poor soldiers, the fault is almost certainly not in the men themselves but in the system of turning them into soldiers. This paper has always felt that the trouble with the N.R.M.A. personnel was the logical result of government policy, or rather of no real policy.

Defiance of the law cannot, of course, be condoned. But before condemning the law-breakers of Drummondville, English-speaking Canadians might well search their hearts and ask themselves to what extent their own pusillanimity has contributed to creating this situation.

London Furore on Canadian Army Laid at Doors of Ottawa Ambition

By L. S. B. SHAPIRO

With the Canadian 1st Army on the Rhine, March 9.—(By Wire) The current furore over the composition of the Canadian Army—set off by the London Telegraph's editorial complaint that Canada is receiving credit for the exploits of British troops—is the inevitable result of Canadian insistence upon assuming the title of a full army at the time when Ottawa knew the dominion's numerical contribution to the western European campaign would fall far short of justifying army status.

The matter has nothing to do with the condition of Canadian reinforcements, nor does it reflect on the ability of General H. D. G. Crerar and his staff to command an army in the field. In the current battle, the full Canadian strength in this theatre was committed, and there has been no cause for complaint over General Crerar's performance. The British complaint stems strictly from the act that headlines heralding the Canadian Army refer to the exploits of an estimated nine British divisions and three Canadian divisions. The fault plainly lies with the high-level planners in Ottawa who insisted that General Crerar's collection of divisions be called the

First Canadian Army, on the theory this would provide Canada with credit for its military effort.

When Lieut.-Gen. Andrew McNaughton created the Canadian Army in March, 1942, he envisioned using for western Europe the entire Canadian overseas commitment of five divisions, and two tank brigades. Even this would have been a bare minimum entitled to be called an army, and it could never be engaged in a major action without the support of outside divisions. When the First and Fifth Divisions and the First Tank Brigade were transported to Italy all that was left for the Normandy assault was the Second, Third and Fourth Divisions, and the Second Tank Brigade—the average strength of a corps.

This did not deter the Ottawa planners when second-front plans were being discussed. They put considerable pressure on the British War Office to allow the Canadian Army—then merely a command post in search of an army—to carry a title into the field with British, Polish, Dutch, Belgian and Czech formations filling out the army. Many believed at the time that this army should be called

(Continued on Page 16, Col. 4.)

Pearkes Wanted Pacific Army

Brig. David Roy Sargent, formerly in command of the Combined Operations School at Courtenay, arrived in Vancouver by boat this afternoon to succeed Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, VC, as General Officer Commanding, Pacific Command, temporarily.

Brig. Sargent said he planned conversations with Gen. Pearkes, but said he had received no definite orders as to what is planned here.

Federal government policy in declining to maintain Pacific Command at peak strength as a jumping-off place for Canadian moves against Japan, was seen in Ottawa today as one possible reason for the resignation of Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, VC, as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Pacific Command.

Meanwhile, reports persisted today in B.C. political and military circles that Gen. Pearkes would enter Federal politics under the Progressive-Conservative banner, although Conservative leaders and the general himself kept a shroud of silence over the possibility.

AGAINST JAPANESE

While National Defense Headquarters maintained strict official silence, military sources said today that cabinet policy on Pacific Command matters as well as the general draftee-reinforcement policy caused Gen. Pearkes to disagree.

One spokesman said that Gen. Pearkes was probably annoyed at the apparent loss of his chance to lead a Canadian force against the Japanese.

"CONTRARY TO POLICY"

Never a drawing-room general, he expressed the desire early in the war that he wanted to lead the first Canadian to enter Tokyo.

Recommendations General Pearkes sent to Ottawa prior to his resignation are kept secret owing to security.

It was on Ottawa's rejection of these that Gen. Pearkes resigned.

Military spokesmen in Ottawa said the recommendations "dealt with more than the reinforcement question and some were contrary to the government's decided policy for Pacific Command."

"SITTING ON FENCE"

Apparently the government decided that the danger of invasion on the Pacific Coast had passed and that maintenance of a large Army in Pacific Command was no longer necessary.

It was this Cabinet policy with regard to defense with which Gen. Pearkes disagreed, according to Ottawa sources.

Whether or not Gen. Pearkes would get another military post was unknown today.

He told The Vancouver Sun that he was eligible for one but had received no offers yet.

At present, attached to District Depot XI, he is "sitting on the fence," a Pacific Command spokesman said.

At Victoria, report of Gen. Pearkes' candidature is strong among Liberals and Army officers.

Conservative headquarters in Ottawa were unable to confirm the report, but expressed hope that Gen. Pearkes would run as a Tory candidate.

General Pearkes and Politics

General Pearkes, VC, is one of Canada's greatest soldiers; and it is not unlikely that, during the coming years of peace, he may make a real contribution to this country's development and prosperity. He is a fine organizer and a good speaker and has other qualities that would fit him for the public platform and the political arena. But he can hardly be a good soldier and a first-class political force at the same time.

The thing for Gen. Pearkes and his friends to remember is that he is still a soldier and up to yesterday on very active duty. He has "resigned" from the Pacific Command for reasons that are not yet clear, but which seem to relate to friction with the Minister of Defense, Gen. MacNaughton. But he is not out of uniform. He is still four years under the age for retirement. For the moment it is said he had been posted to Little Mountain establishment.

The story that politicians are telling is that he will oppose Col. Alan Chambers, MP, for the Nanaimo seat in the forthcoming Federal election. It may well be this will turn out to be true, but it is a premature

statement, so far as his intentions can properly be disclosed. His Conservative friends are doing him a dis-service when they make it appear that his resignation from the Pacific Command is an immediate prelude to a political career.

There is a well-recognized method for any military man to go political. It has been provided by the government that any officer or private soldier who has aspirations along this line can get leave, subject to the judgment of his commanding officer, to arrange for nomination and even to come home from overseas and go campaigning. It makes no difference which side of politics he is on. The point is he gets leave for this purpose, takes "time off" for platform appearances. This arrangement provides that everything is clearly understood beforehand.

It is not usual for any officer to engage in a blow-up with his superiors and then to quit and go on the hustings. The usage does not intend that he shall base a political career on an official quarrel. Gen. Pearkes is too wise a soldier to be led by anybody into an anomalous position of this sort.

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Neither piety, virtue, nor liberty can long flourish
in a community where the education of youth is
neglected. —Cooper

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14.

STILL FACING BOTH WAYS.

Gen McLaughlin came close to a revelation in his press interview of Monday when he was discussing the order-in-council covering the drafting of NRMA men. He explained that this gave him authority to send 16,000 draftees overseas, but before any extension of the order was necessary the Government must have sent overseas 16,000 men who were NRMA personnel when they left Canada.

Although not highly informative on the face of it, the statement does seem to give a clue as to the ~~main~~ ^{main} that the Defence Department is following in the matter of reinforcements. Let us take a purely hypothetical example, and suggest how it might work:

The Government calls 16,000 draftees under the ~~enlistment~~ council to provide necessary reinforcement. On receiving their notices, 7,000 desert, 1,000 are found unsatisfactory for active service for one reason or another, and 4,000 are "persuaded" to sign as volunteers before they actually step aboard the boat for the other side. As a result the Government has only used up 4,000 of the 16,000 it is authorized to despatch, and 12,000 are still to be found—if needed.

This process can be carried through a number of times before the 16,000-figure is reached, and if sufficient pressure is brought to bear they step aboard ship, it is conceivable that the 16,000 quota authorized would always be sufficient.

♦ ♦ ♦
All right, say the Government supporters, supposing this is true, what of it? The reinforcements are being despatched overseas in sufficient numbers and that is the main objective.
This is

This is correct, but the political advantages of the devious policy that the Government is apparently still following in this whole matter must be apparent. When the war comes to an end, the Government will be able to say on the one hand that only a few thousand draftees have been sent overseas, and this only because of the pressure of conscriptionists, and on the other hand that there are practically no draftees left in Canada and that large numbers were converted to active service by the back-door method.

In the back-door method. more in an article elsewhere on this page, Mr. Elphinstone, of Vancouver, discusses some "disguised dismissal" of Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes. He points out that the carefully laid Government plan has miscarried in two respects, first it, and secondly because the draftees have seen through Pearkes would not be honest officers like Gen. Certainly the methods that the Government and the Defence Department seem to be following are quite in keeping with the whole discriminatory manpower policy that has been practised since the start of the war. Instead of frankness there is evasion, instead of openness there is concealment, instead of a willingness to call a spade a spade there is a constant effort to face two ways at once in order to satisfy Mr. King's own particular idea of political expediency.

DRAFTEES EQUAL TO THE TEST.

Prime Minister King made use of this very theme in his famous radio address on the reinforcement question on November 8. He said: "... over and over again it has been said that conscripted men would be received without enthusiasm by the volunteers they were sent overseas to join. It is also said that the presence of conscripts would constitute a source of division and possible dissension in the fighting units. That is nevertheless a risk the government would have to take if it were necessary to enable Canada to bear her just share of the load in winning of the war ..."

Well, the people of Canada forced Mr. King and his government to take this "risk," and now it appears it was not a very great one. For Frederick Griffin, veteran Toronto Star war correspondent, reports that the draftees have arrived at the front and have had their baptism of fire. "And a more terrible baptism no new troops ever had," he writes.

The commanding officer of the Algonquin Regiment, with which Griffin was at the time, said that the draftees "were just as good as any reinforcements we have had. Actually nobody knows in the regiment who is a draftee and who is not, and after the boys have been in action, nobody cares."

This is as it should be. All the boys overseas, whether volunteers or draftees, are Canadians fighting for their country, and that should be sufficient. There should be no separate draftee formations, no distinction to mark the one from the other. These draftees, by their conduct on the field of action, are giving their answer to the anti-conscriptionists, and are showing that in the matter of courage the lack was more apparent in those who forced the creation of the two army system for political purposes at home.

Ottawa and General Pearkes

(The following is a partial text of a talk given by Elmore Philpott, over an independent radio network in Vancouver and published in News, Toronto.)

The big news, out here on this coast, has been the dismissal, or disguised dismissal, of the General Officer Commanding the Pacific Command — Major-General Pearkes, V.C.

Pearkes, V.C. We have not yet got the full story of what lies behind this change, for unfortunately General Pearkes is still in the army under army discipline. That discipline prevents him from coming right out with the whole story. But, such is the crazy plot set-up in Canada, that that rule does not prevent a cabinet minister like the Hon. James Gardiner from making a grossly unfair and untrue attack on General Pearkes. The Minister of Agriculture accuses G.O.C. Pacific — who is the soul of honesty and frankness — of being the leader of a plot to discourage the draftees from going active — that is from volunteering for active service.

It would be difficult to imagine a more complete and ridiculous misrepresentation of the facts than that. During all those years, then, the Pearkes system was in effect. Gen. Pearkes literally ran himself ragged to do a job that no officer should ever have been asked to do. That is, he threw his whole heart into the campaign to get the zombies to "convert," as the saying was. He did this with more success than did any other officer in Canada—as the figures themselves plainly show. He did it indeed with so much vigor and energy that there were complaints from the politicians who are now raising the howl the other way around.

Then they said that Pearkes was putting too much pressure on the zombies to go active. There were even speeches in Parliament about it—protesting the exhortations to volunteer.

There is, of course, no dispute about that now—for it is all plainly on the record. But here is where the present dispute arises.

After the greatest public upheaval that this country has ever seen, Parliament passed the limited conscription act. That is, we had conscription by law. But it was to be applied in fact only in bits and pieces. The first instalment called for 18,000 draftees to go overseas. But the Government's slick trick was: if they could keep up the dual system, the half-and-half army — half zombie and half GS — they could still say to Quebec, "well

even if we had to apply conscription we put through so little of it that it was hardly conscription at all."

That was what the political tricksters wanted to do. The key part of that scheme, if it was to be successful, was this. The draftees would be earmarked for overseas service. They knew they were for it anyway. Then—so the schemers' theory was—the officers could get the zombies in a hall and give them a harangue and show them that as they were going to Germany to fight and bleed and maybe die anyway, they had as well get the credit for going as volunteers.

You might say, what a gigantic hoax! What hypocrisy! That is exactly what it was. The scheme was designed to permit the president to get by without passing any more orders-in-council. That is, as each 10,000 were assigned for overseas service a certain percentage of them would go active, or convert as they call it, after assignment. That would give the Government more leeway. That would be the way when they would have to pass other orders-in-council making more than the original 16,000 zombies eligible to fight at the front.

This scheme miscarried in two respects. First the zombies themselves saw through it. These hard-boiled guys, influenced by some very clever subversive organizers among them, simply said "they can send only 16,000 under the present order. Therefore the thing to do is to make ourselves scarce for a few weeks. Then they will put the finger on somebody else—not us." That is exactly what they did. The real hard crust of bad actors and the guys simply disappeared, and left the outright crooks. Some of the crooks, however, overstayd their welcome but were careful to report back in time so that they could be given only minor punishment.

The second respect in which the Government's scheme miscarried was, that honest officers like General Pearkes balked at being made to carry out what amounted to police brutality work for the party in power. They refused to be a cog in the machine which was perpetuating the zombie system, after it had had such disgraceful results as had shamed Canada in the eyes of the whole allied world.

Now to add insult to injury, the Government spokesmen slander decent soldiers like Pearkes.

Clash of Opinions Is Blamed By McNaughton for Resignation

Grenfell, Sask., March 15.—(C.P.) Defence Minister McNaughton in accepting the Liberal nomination for Qu'Appelle federal constituency today said that he had returned from command of the Canadian Army overseas after a difference of opinion with "certain people."

Gen. McNaughton said "I cannot disclose the certain people" now because it would have far reaching repercussions "but the day may not be far off when all can be told."

He said: "I carried out orders given me. As I thought that orders given me were not right for Canada, I asked to be relieved."

"When the history of these events is written what I did will be justified in the mind of every right-thinking Canadian."

Gen. McNaughton recalled that on his return from overseas he had to rest to restore his health.

He said it was impossible for him to serve a government with certain people in it.

"I resigned from the National Research Council because I could not serve certain people in the government," he said. "You can only serve when you feel confidence in those you serve."

After his rest he had decided last October to take another job outside Canada which was attractive to a soldier although not particularly

associated with Canada. Then, he had been called on by Prime Minister Mackenzie King to advise on the reinforcements question.

He said he had known certain things were wrong, but he had not known the situation was as acute as Mr. King showed it to be. When he was asked to enter the government he did so with the purpose of seeing the men overseas were properly maintained.

Gen. McNaughton, a native of Moosomin, said that early speeches as a cabinet minister dealing with his policy had not been recorded accurately by the press. Sometimes his words had been so twisted he did not recognize them.

After the government reinforcement policy was approved in the Commons, it had been hoped criticism would cease but there had been one campaign of abuse after another.

The Defence Minister said the government had to be careful in what it said about troop movements because of U-boats in the Atlantic. But full scale reinforcements had been placed behind the men overseas, and much more than that—the reinforcements provided were "ample."

He now could look on the situation with some equanimity knowing

that if U-boats cut the line of communications there would be no need to pull the punch of the army in the field.

American divisions, as well as British and Polish, had fought under Canadian command on occasions. Losses in recent drives had been less than anticipated, and this was due in a large measure to the efficiency, dash and gallantry shown in these operations, he said.

General McNaughton said he hoped long service overseas men could be replaced to a large degree as one question which must be faced was placing them in civilian jobs. He would like to see those who had served even less than four years replaced by new men overseas when possible.

PROBLEM SAID SOLVED

"I can say now, in truth, the reinforcement problem is solved," Gen. McNaughton said. "War is a negative thing, and we must turn our minds to other things to the welfare of our people in peace. We want our men back as soon as they confirm the safety of that peace."

J. A. Virtue of Moosomin, Sask., who previously had been nominated as Liberal candidate for the constituency, said that due to pres-

sure of business it would be impossible for him to continue as candidate and placed his resignation in the hands of the association.

He suggested that Gen. McNaughton be invited to seek election in this, his home constituency. The minister is a native of Moosomin.

Mr. Virtue's resignation was accepted by the convention. He then moved that Gen. McNaughton be chosen as candidate and called the minister "a great Canadian." His motion was seconded by Henry Mang of Edenwold. There were no other nominations.

Reaching the meeting two hours after it opened due to transportation difficulties, Gen. McNaughton was introduced by Agriculture Minister Gardiner, who said the new minister always thought as he did now, and that "he is one of the best Liberals in the country."

Mr. Gardiner said men of the home defence army overseas were accepted as comrades in arms by others there. General McNaughton's policies had been justified.

The Defence Minister was greeted with cheers as he began to speak.

The General said he had fought a "skirmish" in the Grey North by-election in which Garfield Case, Progressive Conservative, was elected. He had gained experience in that by-election contest. "But I don't intend to practice the political skulduggery I learned about in Grey North," he continued.

"Things were done of which I had not the least appreciation could be done in the political life of any real democracy. As long as I am associated with politics they are the kind of things I will try to drive out."

"The sort of things done are not the sort of things people want in leaders."

In the army the first skirmish was considered as the one in which information was gained, he said. The other parties in Grey North have disclosed the kind of thing they will stand for, General McNaughton continued.

Protest Continues

London, March 9. — (C.P. Cable)

The Daily Telegraph today continued its protest against what it has described as "something not far short of a total blackout" of exploits of British forces in the 1st Canadian Army.

Demand "honor where honor is due," the morning newspaper said that its original editorial of last Tuesday which complained about "obscurity" of the British exploits, had received "wide and sympathetic" reception in Canada and the United States. The paper said "Canadians" agreed the Army's title was misleading and should be changed to the "Anglo-Canadian army," and it published sympathetic Toronto and Montreal newspaper editorials.

"The particular form of words matter little so long as it is made plain that British troops are playing their part in battles as well as the Canadians," the paper argued.

In reply to a letter from "a 1st Canadian Army Canadian," who agreed that more recognition should be given to United Kingdom battalions but asked also for "more publicity for Canadian position of the R.A.F.," the Telegraph said: "This policy has been given all the support in our power. It is for the principle 'honor where honor is due' that we contend."

The Telegraph published a front-page dispatch from its Toronto correspondent, who said: "The Canadian public and press were shocked by figures which Defence Minister McNaughton left unchallenged in a statement which was issued shortly after newspapers had published excerpts from the article in the Daily Telegraph."

CONFIDENCE IN KING.

He had gained more confidence in the policies of Prime Minister King. Neither to the right nor the left was there a hope comparable to Mr. King, said Mr. McNaughton.

He had never before been associated with any particular political party, but as a servant of the state had sought to serve whatever government was in office. His father had been a Conservative, "but I don't regard the present hybrid Progressive Conservative party as the same as the great party headed by Sir John Macdonald." He hoped Conservatives would cast off the blinkers and be a good opposition.

Mr. Gardiner said that in the 1940 general election there had been almost unanimity among political leaders in not favoring conscription for overseas. Nowhere in the British Empire was compulsion for service forced on the people except through their own decision.

He said when Quebec fell to the British it was under a totalitarian form of government. Britain did not compel Quebec to adopt British customs. Changes were made with the consent of the people. Every step in the development of the Canadian constitution was with the consent of the people. People were not forced by Britain to fight for the Union Jack, he said.

In the present war the Liberal government asked every Canadian citizen to volunteer, to fight for a cause, irrespective of origin. He said between 35 and 40 per cent. of the dead and missing from Saskatchewan in this war were of European nationality who had lived in the province only one or two generations. "That shows there is something in our institutions worth fighting for."

Reinforcements Source of Worry, Returned Army Officer Declares

In reference to recent statements by Major Smythe regarding the reinforcement situation of the Canadian Army Overseas, I would like to add some observations of my own, even though they are not as recent as his.

Prior to being returned as a technical staff officer to Defense Headquarters in Ottawa last year, I commanded a battery of field artillery, and later held the appointment of second in command of another field regiment in the army overseas. I tell you that the reinforcement situation was always a source of worry. Up to the time that I left artillery reinforcements were only insufficiently trained, but inadequate in number to the extent that neither regiment was set up to full strength.

Reliable Opinion
The artillery, the reinforcements needed were of three main types—gunners, drivers and signallers. In my battery I do not remember ever receiving a driver regiment that could be used as until we had given him considerable further training. Never a time in either regiment did we receive reinforcement artillery units. As the original establishment of signallers became depleted the vacancies either remained or else an attempt would be made within the unit to make a driver out of a man already serving for some other type of work. Gunners, the reinforcements needed considerable training before they were other than a liability to the gun detachment to which they had been assigned. And when both units were in a critical role.

Of the reinforcements received were good, willing lads who, after receiving the necessary training, became good soldiers. Their stories were very much the same—only a short period of time between enlistment and being sent to the unit overseas, and percentage of that time spent in non-productive fatigues and in some cases a shortage of training equipment which in use training the "zombie"

Mandating Officers Disturbed
These remarks concern a period of reinforcements needed were in number, and only to replace men in strength that was reduced by accident or sickness resulting in reduced category. Among mandating officers generally there was considerable misgiving as to what would happen when their units in quantity would be needed in the unit would have neither the men nor the opportunity to continue training them. This misgiving appears to have been justified. In some sections of the press a doubt as to the accuracy of Major Smythe's statements appears to have been caused by the fact that main officers in Canada have been taken to take exception to his statements, and have attempted to do them as being uttered with a malicious motive. Unfortunately for the clarity of this situation it is almost necessary to have served in the both overseas and in Canada in order to understand the difference in the two types of mentality are engaging in this controversy. It is to be noted that the statements of Major Smythe are of the

Canadian Home War Establishment (HWE), an organization that thinks, works and acts in an entirely different manner from the Army Overseas. In the Army Overseas "politics" does not exist—there is only a desire to get on with the war and to get it over with. Such an attitude of mind simply would not be understood by the HWE where from my personal observation no action is ever taken or any decision made without full consideration of the "political" aspect of the situation, and where the war itself is treated as a secondary matter.

Reliable Opinion
It is unfortunate that there is this divergence of opinion in our two different armies, Overseas and HWE, but I think any fair-minded person will admit that the only ones who are competent to express an intelligent opinion in this matter are the ones who are serving or have served with the Army Overseas. The important point is that the Canadian Army Overseas has suffered and is suffering severe casualties. If these splendid men are not provided with proper reinforcements when they are known to be available and needless lives are sacrificed as a result there will be many, many people all across Canada who will not regard it in the light of "politics." The friends and relatives of the Army Overseas as well as the personnel of that Army itself will regard it as criminal negligence on the part of those responsible. John G. Spotton, Toronto, Major, R.C.A.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

Canada's Armed Forces Casualties 61,295 at End of August This Year

Ottawa, October 25.—(P)—Casualties for Canada's three armed services at August 31 had increased 10,257 to 61,295 over the July 31 total of 51,038, according to official figures released today by Wartime Information Board.

The July 31 total was 4,044 above the previously announced total of 46,994 which included figures for all theatres up to June 30 and the Normandy campaign up to July 20. Under the new figures, the navy showed a casual increase of 141, the army 8,338 and the air force 785. The latest navy figure of 1,982 showed an increase of 10 dead, 80 missing, prisoner or interned and 45 wounded; the army figure of 42,577 an increase of 2,359 dead, 605 missing, prisoner or interned, and 6,314 wounded; the air force figure of 16,736 an increase of 419 dead, 322 missing, prisoner or interned and 44 wounded.

The three-service total of 61,295 was made up of 23,617 dead, 11,743 missing, prisoners or interned and 25,935 wounded. The navy total was made up of 2,033 dead, 431 missing, prisoner or interned and 348 wounded; the army 12,147 dead, 3,773 missing,

prisoner or interned and 24,657 wounded, and the air force 10,267 interned and 930 wounded. In the 4½ years of the Great War 628,462 Canadians served and casualties totalled 190,092, including 62,817 dead.

After five years of war the present strength of the armed forces is estimated at 764,000 and the 61,295 casualties up to August 31 do not take into account Merchant Navy casualties which were 1,200 up to February 22.

Latest table for the three armed forces:

	R.C.N.	Army	R.C.A.F.	Total
Dead	1,203	12,147	10,257	23,617
Missing, prisoners, interned	431	5,773	5,329	11,743
Wounded	348	24,657	920	25,935
Total	1,982	42,577	16,736	61,295

Following unofficial tables show a breakdown of casualty increases in the period between July 31 and August 31:

	R.C.N.	Army	R.C.A.F.	Total
Dead	19	2,359	419	2,797
Missing, prisoners, interned	80	665	322	1,067
Wounded	45	6,314	644	7,003
Total	144	9,338	785	10,267

SERVICES INTAKE 23,896 IN 3 MONTHS

Total Number in Canadian Armed Forces From War's Start to June 30 is 936,988

P.E.I. IN LEAD
Island Heads Provinces With 46.5 Per Cent.; Quebec Last With 22.8 Per Cent.

Ottawa, October 25.—(P)—Intake from the nine provinces into the Canadian Armed Forces since war started up to June 30, 1944, totalled 836,988—an increase of 23,896 over the 813,092 figure issued August 21 and covering the period to March 31, it was disclosed today.

Compiled by the Wartime Information Board, figures showed that Canada on June 30 had called on 37.9 per cent. of her available 2,474,000 military age males. This was an increase of one per cent. over the figure given for the period to March 31.

In addition to the new intake total another 15,484 were enlisted outside Canada, thus bringing the grand total intake to 952,472 compared to the previous total of 936,988.

The intake figure does not take into account discharges and must not be confused with the total strength of the armed forces which is currently given as 764,000.

Prince Edward Island is making the biggest use of her available military manpower in the 18 to 45 age group with a percentage of 46.5, but since the August 21 date when the figures were released for the period to March 31, an unspecified number of enlistments were transferred to this province's credit from Nova Scotia and an accurate comparative table of increases is thus impossible.

Nova Scotia had led the provinces at the last intake survey with a percentage mark of 45.6, but the readjustment has put this province in third place with 45.4 behind British Columbia, formerly with 44.4, and now with 45.8. Behind these provinces in order and with their previous percentages in brackets come: New Brunswick 44.7 (43.6), Ontario 44.4 (43.3), Manitoba 44.4 (43.5), Alberta 41.0 (40.1), Saskatchewan 39.7 (38.9), and Quebec 22.8 (22.1).

ward Island, at the top, had enlisted 8,932 of its 19,000 military-age population, while Quebec, at the bottom, had enlisted 158,168 of its 699,000 military-age population.

A study of the army figures showed that in the two biggest provinces, Ontario, with a military age population of 830,000 had 216,040 volunteers while Quebec, with 699,000 eligible males, had 82,858.

An analysis of the intake statistics for provinces follows:

	Pop. 18-45	R.C.N.	Army	R.C.A.F.	Total	Intake
P.E.I.	19,000	1,333	5,945	1,554	8,832	46.5
N.S.	123,000	6,724	41,559	7,570	55,853	45.4
N.B.	94,000	2,563	32,927	6,456	41,946	44.6
Que.	699,000	11,015	124,125	23,428	158,168	22.8
Ont.	830,000	11,015	124,125	23,428	158,168	44.4
Man.	159,000	7,259	42,931	9,079	59,269	44.4
Sask.	191,000	5,998	43,258	20,108	70,364	39.7
Alta.	178,000	7,004	46,364	19,576	72,944	41.0
B.C.	181,000	11,499	51,050	20,432	82,981	45.8
Total	2,474,000	92,658	632,465	211,862	936,988	
Outside Can.		615	5,433	9,436	15,484	37.9
Grand total		93,273	637,901	221,298	952,472	

(Army figures are based on a comparison between gross intake which does not take into account discharges for various reasons.)
A breakdown of army intake shows:

	Pop. 18-45	Vlhrs.	Draft	Gross Total	Transfers	Net Total
P.E.I.	19,000	5,529	895	6,424	479	5,945
N.S.	123,000	38,812	5,931	44,743	3,184	41,559
N.B.	94,000	22,229	6,687	35,926	2,959	32,927
Que.	699,000	82,858	49,039	131,897	7,772	124,125
Ont.	830,000	216,040	42,679	258,719	19,358	238,361
Man.	159,000	37,642	8,932	46,574	3,316	43,258
Sask.	191,000	40,003	11,678	51,681	3,892	47,791
Alta.	178,000	40,285	9,707	49,992	3,628	46,364
B.C.	181,000	45,160	10,749	55,909	4,580	51,389
Total	2,474,000	535,568	146,027	681,595	49,127	632,468
Outside Can.		5,447	10	5,457	10	5,467
Gr'd. total		541,015	146,037	687,052	49,137	637,915

(In above army table the net total is reached by subtracting from the gross total figures in the column showing the number of men who transferred to other services and drafted men who volunteered for active service.)

Following is a table showing the intake increase in the three armed forces at June 30 compared to March 31 when the last survey was made and also showing a comparison of the percentage of available manpower each province had taken at the two dates:

	Army	Three-Service Total	Intake Per. March 31-June 30
Prince Edward Island	1,538	1,535	38.4
Nova Scotia	421	775	45.4
New Brunswick	1,002	923	43.6
Quebec	4,830	4,765	22.8
Ontario	7,576	9,802	44.4
Manitoba	1,251	1,467	44.4
Saskatchewan	1,308	1,510	39.7
Alberta	1,323	1,609	41.0
British Columbia	2,224	500	45.8
Total	20,633	21,096	36.9

*A retabulation of army enlistments has resulted in the transfer to Nova Scotia which was previously given in army total of 45,164 compared to the present total of 44,743 and a three-service total of 56,128 compared to the present total of 55,853. The W.I.B. does not specify the number of enlistments transferred to Prince Edward Island's credit and it is therefore not possible to work out the increase in the Nova Scotia enlistment in the three months between March 31 and June 30.

THE GAZETTE, MONTREAL

OVERSEAS MAIL NEARLY DOUBLED

Surveys Show Great Increase in Soldiers' Christmas Parcels

Ottawa, October 25.—(P)—St. Claus to Canadian service personnel overseas will have a heavier load than ever to carry this year but if all goes well he will see the gift parcels mailed on time put in the proper stockings schedule.

Post office officials said today that preliminary surveys indicate that Canadians practically double the volume of Christmas parcels and letters sent to the troops overseas in previous years.

Last minute rushes occurred post offices across the country as relatives and friends of the troops hastened to get their parcels mailed before the deadline—midnight—night—for the Christmas mail to personnel in the United Kingdom and on the continent. Deadlines, mailings to other areas were fixed at earlier dates.

There was no indication of how many carloads of parcels and letters would reach the big base post office here as a result of the minute mailings. However, officials figure the number would be much greater than the 12 carloads of base has been handling every year for the past two or three weeks.

"Although the volume is up, it is being handled better than in the last year," an official said. "The base now has a larger staff and they are working very efficiently. The 12 carloads received every week were sorted, put in bags and sent off to shipping ports the same day for shipment overseas."

An official said that preliminary figures for parcel mailings during the last two weeks of September and the first two weeks of October 1943, and for the corresponding weeks of this year indicated that the volume of mailings had increased.

The base post office handled 298,000 pounds of parcels during the two last weeks of September, a year and 2,306,000 during the corresponding weeks of this year. The two first weeks of October 1943 a year total of 1,135,000 pounds of parcels compared with 2,510,000 pounds for the corresponding period of this year. The figures did not include the cigarette or tobacco parcels sent overseas.

Ottawa Still Silent On Draftee Status

By GERALD WARING

Ottawa, Oct. 28—Under verbal fire which seemed to be increasing rather than diminishing in intensity, the Administration today maintained its week-long silence as to what further use, if any, it intended to put the politically embarrassing and almost militarily useless Home Defence Army of some 70,000 men.

Sniped at by newspapers, anti-government politicians, the Canadian Legion, private citizens and even troops now fighting overseas because of its continued refusal to order the draftee army aboard transports to take it to the European fighting fronts, the full cabinet of 21 ministers met here all week long, reportedly seeking some way out of its dilemma.

Ostensibly summoned to hear Defence Minister J. L. Ralston's report on his recent weeks-long visit to Canadian troops in Italy, France, Belgium and Holland, the meeting rapidly developed into a forum on the question of implementing conscription for overseas service, according to several reports, with Ralston demanding that the draftees be made available as fighting line reinforcements and replacements.

Ralston even was said to have suspended over the head of his chief, Prime Minister Mackenzie King, and the rest of the cabinet, the threat of his resignation unless he were permitted to dip into the manpower pool represented by the 70,000 fully trained soldiers. His emphatic demands for access to that pool were said to have been supported strongly by Navy Minister Angus Macdonald and Finance Minister J. L. Isley.

Other ministers expressed opinions ranging from support tempered with fears of political consequences, to outright opposition.

Recruiting Failure

The draftee question, which has simmered for a couple of years, came to a boil as a result of army recruiting officers' failure in recent months to attain their goal of enlisting 5,000 men a month for active service overseas. The army estimated last year that it would need 5,000 men a month during all of 1944 as casualty replacements for troops overseas, and so long as it was receiving that quota the government was able to withstand pressure to send draftees overseas.

More fuel was added to the fire when the R.C.A.F. decided to discharge 4,200 aircrew trainees because of a contraction of its training program and with army assistance tried to persuade the wing-clipped airmen to transfer to the ground forces. In one hand was the inducement of "preferred treatment", in the other, a threat that if the airmen didn't transfer voluntarily, they would be conscripted.

Reports from air stations at Ottawa, Toronto and Calgary indicate that the number transferring to the army is not much greater than 10 per cent. The others, most of them with parental support, are apparently accepting their dis-

charges and the risk of being drafted. Many of the boys are planning to return to school.

Ralston's trip overseas was made to obtain first hand information on the supply and quality of reinforcements being sent into the Canadian lines.

No Press Conference

Since his return a week ago, Ralston has refused to meet newspapermen in the press conference which, when he landed at Ottawa's Rockcliffe Airport, he promised he would hold. An inference might be that he did not find the situation regarding reinforcements satisfactory, and before meeting newsmen wanted to persuade the cabinet, as a whole that the lesser of two evils was implementing overseas conscription.

Among the troops overseas, dispatches from the fighting fronts have reported, Ralston was continually beset by questions as to why the draftees were not fighting shoulder to shoulder with the volunteer soldiers. Little doubt was left in the minister's mind as to the feelings of the men in the lines on the question, and he brought the story of their resentment back to Prime Minister King.

Politically, the government stands to be damned if it does and damned if it doesn't throw the draftees into the overseas reinforcement pool. And with an election practically a certainty next spring, political considerations are very important.

Longing to retain at least a substantial number of its almost solid block of Quebec seats in parliament—seats doubly valuable in the face of the threatened inroads into liberal strength in other parts of Canada by other parties—the administration feels that Quebec will oppose vehemently any move to send conscripts overseas. No matter what the military exigencies were, it is believed here, Quebec would view such action as a breach of the promise the Liberals made early in the war that they would not draft men for overseas service.

But the administration also realizes that if it doesn't send the conscripts overseas, the condemnation from the other provinces will be equally disastrous from a political point of view, if not more so.

Whether or not Mr. King's opinion as to the need of sending the draftees overseas has changed as a result of Ralston's report is not known. The Prime Minister's position during the sitting of parliament earlier this year was fairly adequately summed up by the catch phrase "not necessarily conscription, but conscription if necessary."

Munro says his estimate could be jumped to 15 or 20 per cent if the men were given good homes leave and placed on rates of pay equal to those of the United States Army. How feels his figure for Italy could be stepped up to 75 per cent if similar concessions were made. How adds that many soldiers believe if the men are entirely demobilized and a re-muster called a month later 90 per cent will report back.

To Make Announcement

Soldiers overseas have not yet received any details about the Government's plans for the Pacific war. Hon. J. L. Ralston, Minister of Defence, told the troops in Italy who questioned him about this that a Government announcement will be made when decisions taken at the Quebec conference are disclosed.

The part Canadians now overseas will play is believed here dependent upon several factors, prominent among them the shipping situation and Canada's share in policing Germany after the European war ends.

Canada has five divisions overseas, so some demobilization at the end of European hostilities can be expected. The extent to which this can be carried out, however, depends upon whether the Dominion is called upon to provide a garrison force in Europe and, if so, how large.

This and the shipping question may well determine what future use will be made of troops now in Canada. Mr. Ralston said in Italy that he did not think "any of us realize the great demands that will fall on shipping after the defeat of Germany."

Don't Want to Go

In connection with the use overseas of home service troops, Munro reported from the Western Front that "many Canadians here say they do not want to go to the Pacific if troops who have remained at home throughout the war are not drawn upon for the same assignment."

"They feel strongly that the home defence forces should make some real contribution to another overseas campaign," Munro added.

How said the soldiers in Italy "all want to know why the onus is continually theirs while Canadians of the home army are not helping in the fighting."

The American ration or some new Canadian ration more like the American than the British "compo" was an "inducement" to Pacific service, Munro found. He said pay and food "are just about the two most important things to any soldier."

The majority of married men with whom Munro talked turned down cold the idea of Pacific service, but he said "there are thousands of young men without marital ties, and who have had no chance to become entrenched in civil life, who would like to stay in the army."

Many officers, too, who have done well in the army would sooner stay in it with their good ranks than go back to what they feel would be routine civilian jobs.

Chance to Re-Volunteer?

Munro reported further: "The big question mark in the minds of Canadians here when they talk of this Pacific business is this: Will we get a chance to re-volunteer or will we merely be regrouped and shipped out?"

How noted that many of the soldiers in Italy have been away from Canada for a long time and said they are afraid they will be strangers in their own homes when they get back; they want the opportunity to put things straight with their families before setting out for the Pacific.

"If arbitrarily packed off to the Pacific without a chance to express themselves they will feel deeply wounded," How reported.

"Although the letter of their agreement with the army permits them being sent anywhere they feel that when they enlisted Europe was the only theatre and a Pacific war was not popularly considered likely."

"They believe as conditions altered so should the liabilities of service. They feel that once the European war is over they will have fulfilled the spirit of their undertaking and that a new undertaking is called for."

Reinforcement Need Not Urgent, Ottawa Reports

OTTAWA, Oct. 28—(Star Special by Staff Correspondent) — If there is to be any early departure in army policy respecting reinforcements, the announcement of it has not yet been forthcoming. Meetings of the Cabinet four times this week have discussed the question from all angles, the more remote as well as the more immediate. "Conscription" has never been the policy of the present government in this war nor was it ever subscribed to by the Liberal Party such in the last war.

The only approach to it this time has been compulsion for service, military or otherwise on the home front. The power to apply it generally has never been availed of. Having gone through more than four years without it, the prospect though not excluded is not relished. More specifically the question is on the principle whether the 40,000 or so draftees fitted for overseas service should be sent there, sooner or later. If they are not sent should they be demobilized or should they be held as occupational troops from the transition period abroad so that those now bearing the brunt may get home quickly when firing ceases. This latter suggestion has been broached.

Made Report

The Minister of National Defence this week made a report on the situation abroad.

The Canadian part since the Invasion has been fully what was expected from any army corps, thoroughly trained for three years or more. The wastage, however, is found to be proportionate to the intensity of the effort—in Italy and in France and Belgium.

Casualties, however, are not confined to killed and wounded. Sickness developed from battling in rain and mud and chilly trenches. These all call for high estimates of wastage and for adequate reserves.

Generally speaking the cabinet approach to the question of compulsory service, if reluctantly, is the same as after the plebiscite, when the question arose of giving the government a free hand. Opposition to the idea is not confined to Quebec ministers.

No Immediate Need

If the reports are correct, there is no immediate need for reinforcements overseas, the preparation for invasion casualties having been adequate. Taking the long view, however, and considering that the "last lap" of the war, mentioned by the British Prime Minister Friday could be a long lap and also a tough one, estimates of requirements need to be generous. Moreover the planning has to be well in advance, not at the last minute. The voluntary pool is not dry yet but it is far from gushing.

That the Defence Minister has given all the information he has acquired there is no doubt, but that he is "demanding" that draftees be made available forthwith lacks confirmation. Resort to such compulsion requires no additional authority from Parliament although it is believed that its sanction might be sought if such a course were taken.

Get Views of Canadians Fighting Overseas

Canvass Reveals Soldiers' Outlook on Pacific War

LONDON, Oct. 28—(C.P. Cable) — Home leave of at least six weeks, favorable pay and rehabilitation adjustments and the right to remuster are major considerations Canadian soldiers on the Western Front and in Italy hope to find in the Dominion Government's army plans for the Pacific war.

Servicemen are anxious, too, for assurance that Canada's home defence soldiers will be called upon to serve overseas when the European campaign ends and the full weight of Allied arms is brought against Japan.

These are the views of soldiers who were canvassed in France, Belgium and Holland by Ross Munro and in Italy by Douglas How, both veteran Canadian Press war correspondents.

Without some special considerations such as those mentioned, Munro believes only about 10 per cent of the Canadians on the Western Front will volunteer for Pacific service. How places the figure in Italy at less than 25 per cent.

THE PSALM OF THE ZOMBIE

Mackenzie King is my shopherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down on a soft mattress;
He leadeth me not across the still waters.
He restoreth his vote;
He keepeth me in the Dominion of Canada for his party's sake.
Yea, though I walk from camp to camp I shall fear no draft;
The King is with me; his staff and his cabinet shall comfort me.
He prepareth a table before me in the presence of mine active enemies;
He clippeth not my hair too short;
My cup runneth over with Canadian beer.
Surely to goodness his government will not change its Mind at this
late date;
And I shall dwell in the confines of Petawawa forever.

Hark the fighting soldiers sing
Glory to Mackenzie King
He has brought our Andrew back
Since recruiting's very slack.
We don't want conscription, no,
Since the Zombies will not go
Hark the fighting soldiers sing
Work and vote for Mr. King.

Late in War he takes his place
Ralston leaves in sad disgrace.
Andrew wears his halo bright
Every day and every night.
Volunteering's all the thing
Boys and girls come on and sing
Join the Movie Stars who show
How to make our money go.

From Quebec and Newfoundland
To Victoria's fog-bound strand
Strip the High Schools of their stuff
They are all quite old enough
But remember brave new boss
That Saint Andrew found -- a cross.

Electoral Votes by Roosevelt

30 Officers of Unit Here Resign Over Ottawa Policy

Thirty officers from the second battalion of a Toronto unit now overseas have submitted their resignations, orally, to Major-Gen. A. E. Potts, officer commanding M.D. 2, and will "put it in writing" today, it was learned last night.

Protesting against the Government's "lack of action, its no-conscription policies, the Zombie army," the officers, it is understood, all agreed to resign in a body.

Asking that the names of the officers and of the unit be kept secret until after the written documents reach Gen. Potts, one of the senior officers of the unit declared last night: "We feel the Zombies are only duplicating the work of the Reserve Army, which was set up to defend Canada, maintain law and order in case of difficulties and do other duties. Now we have between 70,000 and 80,000 osten-

sibly doing the same work, and our efforts are not worth-while."

Asked if other Toronto units were planning similar action, The Globe and Mail informant replied: "You can take it for granted this is the result of concerted action."

"You can say it is a known fact that the officers of certain reserve units have resigned, verbally, to the district officer commanding, and will follow it with written resignations, because of the lack of action on the part of the Government and Defense Minister McNaughton," he said.

"All the written resignations are now being rounded up for presentation to the D.O.C., and we're busy on it now," it was stated. "We did resign verbally to him, but, of course conversation doesn't mean anything, so we are putting it in writing."

Protests of Officers In Reserve to Be Sent To Ottawa by Gen. Potts

Senior officers of several Toronto units of the reserve army have presented, on behalf of their junior officers, strong protests against the Government's "lack of action, its no-conscription policies, and the Zombie army," to Maj-Gen. A. E. Potts, officer commanding Military District No. 2. Many of the junior officers, Maj-Gen. Potts was told, were prepared to ask district headquarters for permission to resign from the reserve army unless Government policies were changed.

The officer commanding, it was learned last night, has promised to forward the protests "through proper channels" to Ottawa, on the understanding that action as to resignations be deferred by the officers in the meantime.

On behalf of Maj-Gen. Potts, who was out of town yesterday, an army spokesman denied that 30 officers had already submitted their resignations to M.D. No. 2, but admitted that "where there's smoke there's fire."

Among the officers visiting the general, it was learned, were some representing reserve battalions of infantry units which are now overseas, and at least one representing artillery units in the area.

"The report 30 officers have submitted their resignations is not a fact," the spokesman said. "Nor has any officer asked for permission at M.D. No. 2 headquarters to resign, as yet. There is no doubt a considerable number of reserve army officers are upset over recent events concerning the reserve army, and that a number have considered taking the necessary steps to resign. However, it was pointed out to them that their views will be presented to the proper military authorities before any definite action is taken, and the opinion was expressed the situation might be relieved to a considerable extent in a few days."

Several Meetings Held

For some time, it was learned yesterday, there has been considerable dissatisfaction among the officers of some of the reserve units. Several times officers have met and discussed asking permission to quit in a body. The complaints were based on the fact that many of them, in the past five years, have spent some of their own money and considerable time in training men one or two nights a week, joining in week-end manoeuvres and attending army camps two weeks each year, while the draftee army was still in Canada.

Since the reserve units were originally intended for defense of Canada and maintenance of order here, as well as to train possible reserves for the overseas battalions, the officers have become more incensed at the duplication of their work by the Zombies, who are paid army pay, while the reservists are paid only for actual drill time.

As a result of the increasing protests, commanding officers of several units went to military head-

quarters. The officer they interviewed there—a high-ranking one—pointed out the other officers could not resign. They could ask to resign, "but in any case their resignations need to be accepted, and that is not very likely."

On the definite promise of the officer to take the matter up with Ottawa, the senior officers agreed to "let it ride—for now."

Some Favored Resignation

While commanding officers of the 48th Highlanders, Royal Regiment, Irish Regiment, No. 2 District Engineer, "A" Corps of Signals and 2nd Division Signals all hastened to declare their units were not involved yesterday, it is known artillery officers and the officers of at least one infantry unit, meeting to discuss the reinforcement situation and its relation to the Home Defense Army, had favored resignation procedure.

"I know that throughout the district many of the reserve officers are very hot under the collar about the whole reserve army situation, and would like to quit," said the commanding officer of another unit. "But, since they now understand their views will be submitted to Defense Minister A. G. L. McNaughton, it is hoped they will cool off a bit."

Another high-ranking officer of a reserve unit said: "Every one in this organization is greatly concerned with the Government's policy toward the Zombies and the reserve army, but there are no resignations here. One of the things the Zombies can't do is train men to go overseas, while the reserve units have trained thousands."

Plan N.B. Mass Meeting

Saint John, N.B., Nov. 9 (CP).—United protest may be made by reserve army units here against the Federal Government's attitude on the Zombie question, the Evening Times-Globe said in a newspaper story today.

The story continued: "Any action here would be in support of the course said decided by 30 officers of a Toronto reserve unit, who are reported to be resigning because of the Government's 'lack of action, its no-conscription policies, and the Zombie army.'"

The newspaper said a mass meeting of reserve personnel here may be held "in an endeavor to decide on some concrete expression of the reserves' state of mind."

Officers Comb Staffs In Reinforcement Quest

Ottawa, Nov. 10 (CP).—Reinforcement officers today were making the rounds in national defense headquarters and home war establishments throughout Canada carrying out Defense Minister McNaughton's accelerated plan to send non-combatant staffs to the reinforcement stream.

No official figures were available, but it has been estimated that 1,000 high category men will be found at N.D.H.Q. here and another 6,000 to 8,000 will be combed out of establishments in other parts of the country.

Besides this number it has been estimated that at least 5,000 combat

troops can be re-mustered from home ordnance, service corps, engineers, artillery and armored corps establishments.

At N.B.H.Q. it was said that the first potential infantry reinforcements—the need for which was stressed Wednesday night by Prime Minister Mackenzie King—have already gone to training camps for refresher courses.

No one would estimate how long it would be before these troops would be on their way overseas, but one source said: "It shouldn't take longer than six weeks to get them back into shape—you must remember that they've all had the basic infantry course and some of them have brushed up on this in brief training periods."

He said that only in case of "extreme essentiality" would medically fit combat potential be left on their jobs to await replacements. The remainder will be sent to refresher camps "almost immediately."

Another source said that while he could procure no recruiting figures yet he understood there had been a marked increase in the number of draftees "going active" since Gen. McNaughton made his appeal at Arnprior last Sunday.

"I can't give you any figures but I can assure you if they are released they will show an increase for this week over last—why three Zombie clerks right on this floor volunteered yesterday."

Following Mr. King's appeal Wednesday for volunteers and the Government's recognition of the public anxiety over this matter, it was understood Defense Headquarters officials were working on a plan by which the weekly recruiting figures will be issued. The plan hinges on security and it is expected a ruling will be given on this angle in a few days.

Draftees to Stay On Jobs Here

Most of the 530 members of the draftee army assigned to jobs in the Toronto area are likely to stay here, according to Selective Service officials. One hundred of the men started work at Sunnybrook Hospital yesterday; another 200 are employed on the railways; 100 are now at an East York brickyard, while others have been assigned to a soya bean storage elevator and a tile plant.

Although Defense Minister A. G. L. McNaughton has announced other Home Defense Army men on civilian jobs will be turned to army camps for military training, it is understood there was no decision to do the same thing with the men in this area. "It is our understanding the work here is regarded as of military importance," it was stated.

CANADA AND THE WAR

CANADA'S SUPPORT OF THE ARMY OVERSEAS

BROADCAST

by

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING, M.P.

Prime Minister of Canada

OTTAWA, NOVEMBER 8, 1944



OTTAWA
EDMOND CLOUTIER
PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY
1944

Power Asks Sympathy In Rehabilitating Fliers

Montreal, Nov. 10 (CP). — The postwar permanent force of the RCAF and civil aviation combined will not be able to provide employment for all Canadians who have been trained as airmen and a "very considerable residue must be absorbed into civilian industry," Air Minister Power said tonight in a speech read for him by Air Marshal Robert Leckie, Chief of Air Staff.

The speech was read at the annual anniversary Armistice dinner of the Air Force Veterans' Association. After accepting the engagement, Major Power underwent an operation for appendicitis in Quebec and Air Marshal Leckie was asked to read the speech.

The average age of men in RCAF aircrews was 23 and most of them had little or no business experience because they had left school to enlist, the speech said. This presented a problem which called for the co-operation of all employers.

Must Not Waste Leadership

"It is your problem and my problem, it is the problem of all thinking Canadians, to ensure that the great qualities of leadership which these young men possess are not wasted and that their services in risking their lives are recognized, not by placing them in positions which they cannot fill, but by dealing with them sympathetically and devoting more than the usual amount of time and consideration

so that they may be successfully rehabilitated," the speech said.

"First of all I would draw your attention to the inevitable necessity of a cooling off or readjustment period. Civilian life, I need hardly tell you gentlemen, to the returning flier, is drab and unexciting. It is only natural that these men will seek relief in ways which at times appear uncouth, uncivilized and jejune. Once again, I must repeat that it is your problem and mine to make allowance during this period, to judge fairly the few who do break out and to endeavor in every way to cushion their return to the normal life of Canadians."

There was no rough and ready solution to the problem of absorbing those who could not be taken into the ranks of the permanent force or those who could not be employed in civil aviation. The problem could best be solved by business men and employers doing all they could to assist the airmen's rehabilitation.

"These men have been fighting for you since 1939," said the speech. "Is it too much to ask that you do everything in your power to ensure that they will be better treated, better understood after this war than you who returned from the last. To do everything in your power to attain this aim is not an act of charity or even an act of gratitude. It is an act of simple justice and contribution on your part toward the remaking of this Canada which they, and we, have given

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RALSTON'S HOUSE AIDE QUITS POST

By KENNETH C. CRAGG

Ottawa, Nov. 10 (Staff).—Reports that the unanimity of the King Cabinet is being underscored by increasing friction between the French and English speaking members, coupled with the revelation that Army Parliamentary Assistant William C. Macdonald has followed Col. J. L. Ralston into retirement, were accepted today as further indication that the Government still faces a crisis of imposing magnitude.

Mr. Macdonald, a barrister, with Gordon B. Isnor represents the two-member Halifax City riding. It is not regarded as mere coincidence that the former Defense Minister is a native Maritimer, and that both Navy Minister Macdonald and Finance Minister Isley, who were strong in their support of Col. Ralston in Cabinet in the reinforcement issue, are also Nova Scotia-born.

Mr. Macdonald presented his resignation to Prime Minister King, and, aside from other distinctions, will go down in Parliamentary history as the first Parliamentary assistant to resign his post. It is advised that his statement of resignation will not be released until either the Prime Minister is ready to release that of Col. Ralston's or Col. Ralston gets tired of waiting and places his position to the public himself.

"Conscription Party"

Parliament Hill is exercised over reports that efforts are being made to create a "conscription party." While Col. Ralston's name is mentioned in this connection, those in close touch with him say he is determined to retire from politics altogether at the end of this Parliament.

Another name linked with a possible conscription party is that of Murdoch A. MacPherson of Regina, unsuccessful candidate for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party two years ago.

A majority of the Cabinet are believed to be in accord with the position taken by Prime Minister MacKenzie King in the voluntary overseas service policy for the present. One report here tonight was that Mr. King had told the Cabinet that compulsory overseas service would not be approved by the Commons if brought before it by the Government.

Heavy Trek of Members

During this week there has been an unusually heavy between-session trek of private members to Parliament Hill, and there can be only one conclusion: Liberals from other than Quebec are not happy. There can be no other conclusion also that they were not cheered perceptibly by whatever contacts they had with their Ministers.

There is, beyond any doubt, a critical attitude among them to the speech made by Justice Minister St. Laurent on Saturday, Nov. 4, in Quebec City before the Lapointe-Drouin Liberal Club, where he is quoted as saying that if the Federal Government had decided to send draftees as reinforcements overseas: "The majority of people in Quebec would have deemed themselves deceived by their English-speaking compatriots."

Mr. St. Laurent, himself, said that Col. Ralston, "a great Canadian, who is worthy of the admiration of all Canadians, has visited the battlefields overseas and upon his return has communicated to his Cabinet colleagues reports of an extremely serious nature."

Harmful To Liberal Cause

In the light of this admission and in the light of the evidence of Prime Minister King's statement on Wednesday night that "Col. Ralston's report to the Government disclosed an immediate problem which has to be faced," Federal Liberals from non-French ridings protest that the Justice Minister's statement was most inept, was most harmful to the Liberal cause and most likely to destroy the "mutual confidence of the people in one another," a confidence that he said he wanted to maintain.

There is evidence that Cabinet difficulties have their core in the dispute over invoking Bill 80, over declaring for universal compulsory

selective service and by that declaration sending draftees into the fighting. But there is imposing suggestion also that unrest has been growing through differences over appointments.

On the statements of both French and Anglo-Saxon members the problem over appointments is old and has always been conducive of friction. The French say that in spite of the political strength that French-Canada has given to the Liberal Party, French-Canada has not a part in the administration of the country that is commensurate with its population of three million odd.

What Phone Book Shows

They say the record of the official telephone book shows that with the exception of Supreme Court representative, there are only one deputy minister and several others of near deputy minister status in the entire Federal service. Plenty of junior clerks, translators and such, but few in any position of responsibility.

The Anglo-Saxon side says the accusation is true, but submits that it cannot get the men from Quebec who are trained adequately in the sciences to take positions of high responsibility in munitions and supply, finance and other branches of the service which require this type of education.

That is the basis of the quarrel which has gone on for some time and which has been admittedly intensified by demands made in the war years from Quebec for what they consider to be a rightful place in the administration.

Fisheries Episode

An example of a cause of friction was revealed in the recent publication of the 1943-44 Canada Year Book. By the Constitution, the Department of Fisheries, under Ernest Bertrand, administers all of Canada's tidal fisheries (except those of Quebec, which, by agreement are under Provincial administration). The non-tidal fisheries of Nova Scotia and the fisheries of Yukon and the North West Territories. The non-tidal fisheries of the other provinces are administered by their provinces. The Quebec agreement goes back to the early twenties.

But now it is revealed that administration of the fisheries of the Magdalen Islands, far-out in the St. Lawrence Gulf and much nearer Cape Breton or Prince Edward Island than the Gaspé coast, although recognized as a part of Quebec, were transferred to provincial jurisdiction, as from April 1 last, by agreement between the Dominion Government and the Province.

Parliament was sitting at the time and, on this matter, members of Parliament wonder why this transfer was made without Parliament being advised. The wonder is deeper among members from the Maritimes and British Columbia, who are interested more vitally in fisheries jurisdiction.

Power Bloc Hurts

Aside entirely from the causes of difficulty or some standing, there has grown from the current crisis in the Cabinet and the issue which brought it to a head, on the part of non-French Liberal members a deeper conviction than they have ever had before, that it is neither good for the party, the country, nor French Canada, that there should be a bloc or political power from one section attached to one party.

There is a hope, and this cannot be gainsayed, that even power-hungry Liberals are hoping for the time when French Canada will vote on issues—and not in support of one party. And it may be said from Quebecers who have split from the Liberal Party, they think that their hopes will be realized at the next election—but even they do not know for sure at this stage how far Mr. King's adherence to the voluntary system will cement Liberal support in Quebec's 65 ridings.

SAYS OFFICERS CAN'T RESIGN OVER POLICY

Ottawa, Nov. 10 (CP).—While Maj-Gen. F. R. Phelan, director-general of the reserve army, remained silent today on portents revealed from Reserve Army officers over the Government's reinforcement policy, a Reserve Army official said officers could apply for retirement, but they would have to produce something better than "I'm sore at the Government" to have their application granted.

Under normal procedure reserve officers cannot "just up and resign," he said. They must first apply for retirement, giving reasons of health or essentially to other duties.

"Then applications are considered on their merits and a decision is given, but officers can't just resign because they're sore at Government policy," he said. "That's politics and we don't go in for politics in the army—reserve or otherwise."

The officer said that only "a very small percentage" of the Reserve Army's 5,000 officers and 75,000 men across Canada "seem to have decided to try to resign" in protest over the Government's reinforcement stand.

The Reserve Army was in a slightly different position than home defense troops because "the reservists are committed to serve anywhere in an emergency."

Request for Badges

Saint John, N.B., Nov. 10 (CP).—Senior officers representing reserve units here are planning to seek support of Military District No. 7 Headquarters in forwarding a request to National Defense Headquarters that a badge or shoulder flash be authorized to identify reserve soldiers and that wearing of the general service badge, by full-time members of the reserves' administrative and training staffs, be approved, it was reported today.

In publishing the report, the Evening Times-Globe said in a newspaper story:

"One of the causes of the poor attendance in recent months at weekly training periods of the reserve army has been the actual rank on the part of those below the rank of commissioned officer of being mistaken by the public for a Zombie. Some of the reserve, walking in uniform to drill, have been subjected to derisive shouts of 'Zombie,' and conditions have come to the point where many of the reserves refuse to attend drill unless they are able to get a taxi or a friend's car to take them to the training grounds. No army officers, active or reserve, wear the G.S. badge, so they escape the ignominy of name-calling on the public streets. . . ."

A Soldier Writes Home

'Not in the Books to Get Home'; Officer's Widow Pens Appeal

Below is an excerpt from a letter written by a Canadian officer who had won the Military Cross and who was killed in action in Italy. It was sent to his wife before she received the notification telegram of his death. The widow asks that her name be not disclosed.

"This will be my fifth Christmas away from home and I guess it is not in the books to get home before it's all over. When we asked for leave we were told there wasn't any shipping space for us and no reinforcements.

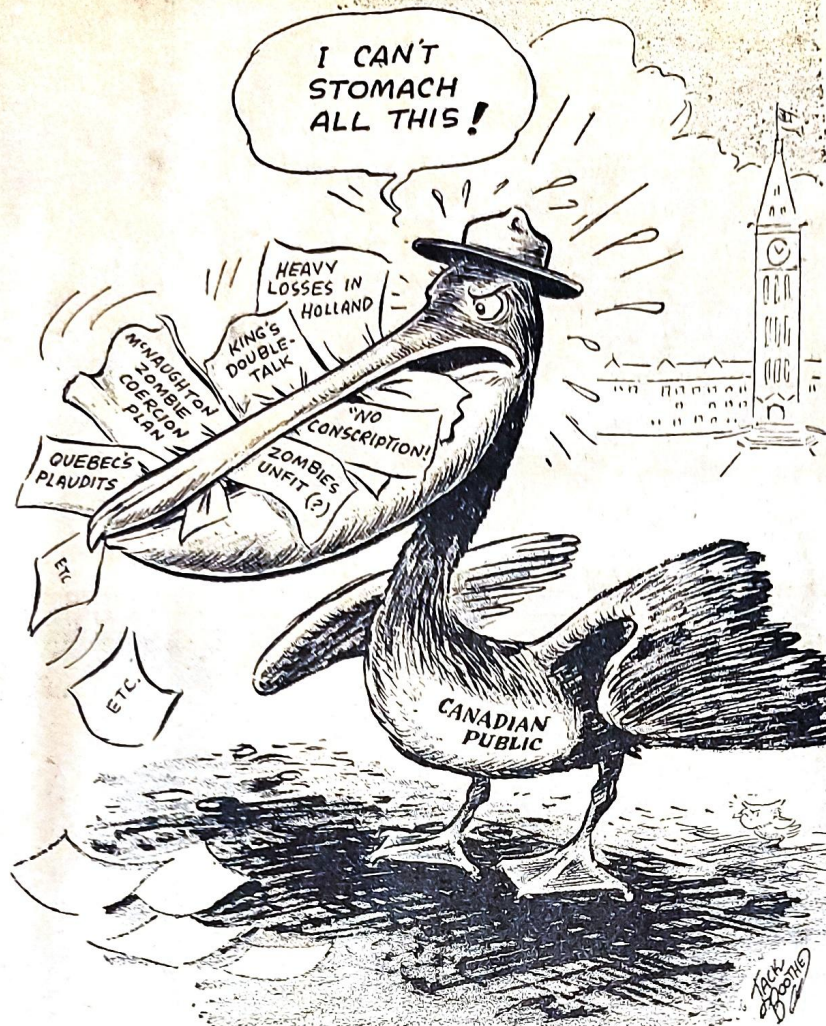
"Being bitter does not help any but we are beginning to wonder if

it's worth it and what's wrong with our Government."

The widow of the writer of the above abstract comments as follows:

"I am writing this not because I am bitter or because I am not still a loyal Canadian but because I would like to help give other men a break and show that they must not lose hope that Canadians have let them down. . . . Men and women of Canada, do you know that these soldiers are not only fighting but giving blood donations all they can and backing the Victory Loans in full. . . . What have you done to keep faith with these soldiers and your country? Remember, they are your brothers and your sons. Their lives are given for your country and you."

A Peculiar Bird Is the Pelican...



Corporal Writes Home on Eve of Death

From The Montreal Gazette

The following letter was written to his father by Cpl. K. S. Bardwell of the 1st Battalion, Black Watch (R.H.R.) of Canada, on Oct. 12, the day before he was killed in action in Holland. It shows in a touching way what the boys overseas are thinking. It ought to give some food for thought to the people back home.

Hello Dad:

Just thought I would drop you a few lines to let you know I'm doing all right over here. We are out for a rest, which was certainly much needed. I'm telling you. It is a soft time during a rest, almost the life of Reilly or a lotus eater. The only thing we do is clean our weapons and walk about 25 yards for our meals. Lots of sleep and plenty to eat, so we are getting quite fat. These rests are only for a couple of days, so I will be up there again soon. I was told by a padre over here to always tell the truth in my letters, so I am. Some of the fellows here don't tell their folks that they are in action, anyway that's their business, eh?

The going is the same as in any war; it is tough. But we have grand support from tanks, artillery of all kinds and Typhoons. People at home are probably saying the same as I did in England, that the war is won. We still have the Battle of Germany to win, which is not going to be easy. We'll crack them without a doubt. The only trouble is that, although we have decidedly won the war, there are still men being killed. I am fighting for a country of which I am damn' proud and I am also proud that I am able to serve it. I have you and Mom to thank with all my heart that I am what I am and that I can take this sort of stuff.

There is only one thing that bothers us; the Zombies back there. When I am crouched in the bottom of my slit trench under a jerry barrage, I curse those guys black and blue just as much as I do those 88 mm. and mortar Jerry crews. It doesn't seem fair, does it, Dad? If we have to go to the Far East after this do, there has to be something done about them; that's one thing definite. However, that's enough of that.

I often think of home and how I would give anything to be back there with Ed and you all. That day shouldn't be far off, I think. There is one memory that is always popping into my mind when things are going tough: walking home from church Sunday noon to those swell dinners. One other thing I often thank you both for, bringing me up believing in God. That is one thing that a fellow cannot do without. I have found it a most peaceful and assuring feeling to be able to pray for those of you dear to me. Also when I have prayed for strength and courage, I had to learn the hard way, but I do believe in God now.

I bought another \$100 bond today in our Seventh Loan drive, and am enclosing the receipt in this letter. I figure it is the best investment there is.

Nowadays I don't get much time to write the other folks except you folks and Ed; so tell them that I am always thinking of them, and all my love to them.

I guess I'll sign off for now, Dad. I think I'll drop a line to Ed tonight. So good-bye for now, and God bless you.

Your loving son,
Keith

Defense Minister Needs to Be Right For Soldiers' Sake

JUDITH ROBINSON

In Fort Erie Times-Review

When Daniel Webster, after accepting a post at Washington in the Cabinet of President Fillmore, spoke in support of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 the news came as quite a shock to his friends and admirers. One of these was Horace Greeley, who had believed in Webster and supported him in early struggles to rouse the American people in opposition to slavery. After his speech, Mr. Webster came home from Washington to Boston by way of New York. His old admirer noted the fact in twelve words on the editorial page of the New York Tribune.

"The body of the late Daniel Webster," Horace Greeley wrote, "passed through New York yesterday."

This reporter can now understand how Horace Greeley felt when he wrote it.

Canada's new Minister of Defense was born at Moosomin, in South Saskatchewan, 56 years ago. Moosomin is on the main line of the C.P.R. between Regina and Brandon. About a thousand people live there. Hardly that now; so many young men have gone from Moosomin to fight for Canada's hope, and Moosomin's, and the world's.

It's been hard fighting in France and Belgium and Holland, and the South Saskatchewan haven't had the easiest of it, the man who had been in there fighting with them said. He'd come out in the hospital plane with a boy from that bunch. Just a kid, but game as they are made. And afterward he and the boy had landed in a hospital in England in the same ward with two other South Saskatchewaners. They were good too: as good taking it by themselves in hospital as when they were taking it in France with all their bunch.

And that's sometimes harder, the man who had been through it said. You get time to think in hospital, when the pain lets up, and you have a chance to compare notes with any of your lot that come in later, and you begin to know what's happened...

That's how those kids from South Saskatchewan started in as soon as their running mate come out of it. They'd got theirs three weeks before and they were crazy to find what had happened to the regiment since, and to the men they knew. And yet afraid.

I've been through some tough times, the man said, but I've never known anything much tougher than lying there listening while those two hedged around getting up their courage to ask the boy who came with me about their friends. And him getting up his courage to tell them.

It was their voices, the man who had been through it said. They were so young and they held so steady, asking after one, and another and another... Dead... dead... don't know, he hadn't got back when they sent me out... a bad one from a mortar, when we had to go back in again, after that last show you were in... dead. It went on and on like that, the man said, until at last one of the first two said: What about the reinforcements, didn't they come? They were to come sure the day we got it. The last kid's voice changed on that. No, he said, they didn't come, and they hadn't come when I came out. Then he turned his head away and nobody said any more.

But I could guess what they were thinking, the man said. I'd seen the South Saskatchewaners in France. I'd seen them going into it and coming out and going in again, and again. There are no finer assault troops in the world than those kids from the West. You can't stop them, nobody can. But taking a place is one thing and holding it without enough men is another...

That's what shortage of reinforcements means, and I know, because I've seen it, the man said. I'm out of it for keeping...

Youth Disillusioned By Air Ministry Order

I am the father of a boy who was 18 years old in September. For the last three years he has been an active and enthusiastic participant in air cadet activities and a proud believer in Canada.

Due to hard work and enthusiasm he became the W. O. of his collegiate air cadet squadron, and also due to these responsibilities and the time which their discharge needed he failed to make his senior matriculation, although a previously good student.

At the earliest age possible, in March of this year, being 17½ years old, he enlisted in the RCAF, and was put on leave until he was 18 years old in September.

Eager to Serve

He duly reported the day after his birthday to the RCAF in Toronto, filled with eagerness and pride in his venture, and with a great belief in everything Canadian. After a short period he was offered a wireless navigator's course, but, in common with a lot of his new and young friends, he elected to take a straight "A.G." course because it would get him into action earlier.

Then came the news of the discharge order of the Air Ministry, and almost immediately representations were made to them on behalf of the army, and appeals made to transfer to the infantry.

Disillusion Follows

Overnight from an eager, loyal Canadian lad my son became an implacable, cynical, hating, disillusioned fellow. He had regarded all the terms of his training and the incidents of his enlistment and reporting as a good-faith agreement between him and his country. He realized that he was trapped to relieve the necessities of an Administration which did not have enough courage to demand that Canada be defended by all those who enjoyed the privileges of living in the country.

It would have been much better if all the old politicians in this country had endured humiliation rather than...

RALSTON DEMANDS CONSCRIPTION N

Action Taken to Remedy Equipment Grievances

Ottawa, Nov. 10 (CP).—Defense Minister McNaughton said today that in the most important items of army equipment "I am assured that the situation is well in hand and that the effectiveness of our operations is not being prejudiced." He made the statement in com-

menting on a statement Thursday night by Lt.-Col. T. M. Medland of Toronto concerning equipment and beer supplied to the Canadian Army.

(Col. Medland, a veteran of the first Great War and until the spring of this year officer commanding an anti-tank unit in Italy, said that Canadian forces in that theatre for months have been using discarded British equipment while new Canadian equipment is turned over to British units, Poles and Czechs.)

(He said Canadian soldiers were asking why they received only a half-bottle of beer a month when British troops got a bottle a day.)

"Regarding equipment, I am well aware that there have been difficulties of the nature referred to by Col. Medland and I find that the officers of this department have taken prompt action to correct them as they have been reported," said Gen. McNaughton.

"Shipping difficulties have delayed the remedial measures which have been initiated. In the most important items I am assured that the situation is well in hand and that the effectiveness of our operations is not being prejudiced.

"As regards beer, this is not an issue to the troops. It has been made available throughout the theatre for purchase in the canteens on a quota basis. I find that the quota for Canadian troops is on the same basis as that for their comrades in other armies. The supply has been short. This is being improved, but there is no likelihood that it will ever reach the scale which all troops would like."

Reserve Officers Defer Action

There has been no further action by officers of reserve battalions of army regiments now overseas since the report by high-ranking officers that they would seek to resign because of recent events in connection with the Government's draftee policy.

Maj. Gen. Arthur Potts, to whom these officers said they had orally sought permission to resign, was absent from his office yesterday and, pending action on his statement that the officers' remarks be forwarded to National Defense Headquarters, it is not expected that either the officers or Gen. Potts will issue a statement.

Corps Opposes Stand

Thorold, Nov. 10 (Special).—The Canadian Corps unit here has sent the following telegram to Prime Minister King and Defense Minister McNaughton: "We, the mem-

Two Groups Meeting

Hamilton, Nov. 10 (Staff). — The King Government's avowed policy of continuing the voluntary enlistment system is slated for discussion and probably protest by two important veterans' organizations in Hamilton within the next week.

The United Council of Veterans, to which are affiliated most ex-servicemen's bodies here, will hold its next regular meeting on Thursday, Nov. 17, and, according to President A. F. Smee, "no doubt the conscription issue will be discussed."

The Central Branch, Canadian Legion, will meet next Wednesday evening. Arthur Grimshaw, the president, said tonight he knew the recent conscription controversy will be raised.

Meanwhile the Provincial Command, First Canadian Contingent (Originals) Association, and its affiliated clubs, including the Hamilton branch, is standing firm on the resolution passed at the annual convention here in August and urging Prime Minister King to use the Home Defense Army for overseas service.

500 in Veterans Clubs Endorse Ralston Stand

Edmonton, November 12.—(C)—Five hundred persons meeting here today unanimously endorsed a vote of confidence in the stand of Col. J. L. Ralston, former Defence Minister, on the overseas reinforcement question and called on the Dominion government for immediate enforcement of conscription for overseas service.

The meeting was of representatives of ex-servicemen's organizations, women's auxiliaries and dependents of overseas soldiers.

A motion asking Prime Minister to resign "in the interest of the country and the men overseas," and calling for the naming of Col. Ralston as Prime Minister, was defeated.

Harold E. Tanner, president of the Edmonton branch of the Canadian Legion, predicted "rivalry and hard feeling between the young men coming back and those who didn't go active when given the opportunity of such a character that we will not have peace in Canada in the next generation."

Dyde Resigns His Post As Defence Secretary

Ottawa, November 12.—(C)—Col. H. A. Dyde of Edmonton, military secretary to the Minister of National Defence, has resigned. It was reliably learned here tonight Col. Dyde recently accompanied Col. J. L. Ralston, former Defence Minister, on a battlefield tour.

It could not be learned what Col. Dyde planned to do. In peacetime he practiced law in Edmonton.

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Temperature Yesterday
Max., 37; Min., 25
Same Date Last Year
Max., 36; Min., 29
Sunday, November 14, of last year:
Max. 33 Min. 23
MCHIL OBSERVATORY READINGS

FOUR PAGES

PRICE FIVE CENTS

OW TO MEET LOSSES

Unswerving Loyalty' of Quebec Pledged the King by Villeneuve

London, November 12. — (C.P. able) — Rodrigue Cardinal Villeneuve, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Quebec, in a BBC domestic broadcast today pledged French-speaking Canada's "goodwill and friendship" toward the people of Britain and said he had assured the king that his Roman Catholic and French-speaking subjects in Canada "will continue in the future, as they have in the past, to revere, honor and serve him as loyal subjects."

The prelate, who is shortly to return home after a two-months visit to Canadians in the European and Mediterranean theatres, thanked the people of Britain for their many tokens of high esteem toward Canadians. Following is the text of the Cardinal's address:

Before returning to Canada after a visit of two months to Canadian forces on this side of the Atlantic, it is a very pleasant duty for me to voice my sincere thanks to the people of the British Isles for their many tokens of high esteem toward the Canadian people as well as for numerous expressions of personal regard I received everywhere I went.

Needless to say, as a Canadian I am quite proud of the outstanding part which my splendid young army and air forces have played alongside your own armed forces and those of the other allied nations in the present struggle for human freedom and Christian civilization.

I feel equally proud of the invaluable support given our common cause by my people at home in our factories and on farms. And I am proud with much satisfaction that this very essential contribution to

the war effort is as much appreciated here as are the extraordinarily large number and indomitable valor of the volunteer forces Canada has already sent overseas.

This is all the more remarkable when one stops to consider the fact that our young Canadian nation is made up of so many peoples of different racial origins, now all welded together after a relatively short span of years into one great country.

In our Dominion there are two predominating elements, one English speaking and the other French speaking, working together with a common purpose, each according to its own temperament, culture and traditions to achieve not uniformity but rather unity in diversity, after the very pattern of the British Empire.

On behalf of the Roman Catholic hierarchy and the people of Canada who constitute the largest religious denominational group, on behalf of my own French-speaking compatriots, I bespeak their goodwill and friendship toward the British people, our unstinted admiration for your unconquerable spirit in this war and our unswerving loyalty to His Majesty our King, whom it was my privilege to assure during my stay in London that his Roman Catholic and French-speaking subjects in Canada will continue in the future as history amply proves they have done in the past, to revere, honor and serve him as loyal subjects.

With you all I join in humble prayer to God that through the merits of His Divine Son the intercession of His blessed Mother and the patron saints of our respective countries, peace with justice may soon be restored to a troubled world.

BREAKS HIS SILENCE

Reveals King Asked Resignation When Action Demanded

POOL SITUATION SERIOUS

He Denies Premier's Implication he Reported Reinforcements could be Delayed

Ralston text, page 6.

(Gazette Resident Correspondent.)

Ottawa, November 12.—A scorching reply to Prime Minister King's radio address of last Wednesday night came early this evening when Col. J. L. Ralston, who was displaced by Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton as National Defence Minister, issued to the press a statement making it plain that the Prime Minister's summary of Col. Ralston's report to the cabinet on the grave reinforcement situation overseas had omitted emphasis upon the need of immediate and drastic action. Another point made in Col. Ralston's statement was that his resignation as Defence Minister, acted upon by the Prime Minister at a momentous cabinet meeting on October 31, was made at the request of the Prime Minister, a statement which refutes the suggestion that the resignation was purely voluntary.

Col. Ralston in his 10-page statement pointed out that the reinforcement pool overseas was so depleted that they could not assure prompt replacement of casualties; that infantry casualties had exceeded estimates; that even if the 8,000 available trained draftees were sent overseas now the move would not promptly relieve the situation "but it would reassure the men on the fighting front that they would be backed up at the earliest possible time."

Another vital point made by Col. Ralston was that he could not possibly concur in the proposed alternatives to sending over the trained draftees. One of these was to "reduce our commitments," which has been taken to mean a reduction of divisional strength, and the other was to break up units and formations.

REALIZES VITAL NEED

Col. Ralston said: "I realized that the need which had arisen could not be met by enlisting untrained men in the ordinary course, an untrained man enlisted now would not be ready for battle before next June."

While careful in the language he employed, Col. Ralston made it evident he wasn't impressed by talk of a possible early end to the war in Europe or of casualties being considerably less than the estimates "I considered," said Col. Ralston, "that if we're to be fair to our fighting men, we could not afford to take chances on either of these uncertainties; but that we must base our plans on the carefully prepared estimates of our own and other military authorities and act accordingly. Time was all-important."

Reporters were summoned to Col. Ralston's office to receive a statement at 4:30 p.m. They stayed there until nearly 6 p.m., before the final draft was distributed.

Col. Ralston declined to answer questions, but it was reliably learned that he will start a vacation the latter part of this week and that he is not contemplating joining any coalition of conscription forces in seeking parliamentary representation.

Before starting to answer hundreds of letters from Canadians who offered support to his stand. On completion of his holiday — about the first he has had since he joined the cabinet at the start of the war — he will take up his private law business in Montreal.

KING REPORT INCOMPLETE

Col. Ralston pointed out early in his statement that the Prime Minister's summary of his Col. Ralston's report to the government was "not sufficiently complete to convey the substance of my report on the problem."

Throughout his statement Col. Ralston stressed the urgency of immediate steps to get reinforcements across the ocean.

"What is particularly important," said the former Defence Minister, "is that the summary gives no indication of the necessity of sending additional infantry reinforcements at the earliest possible date."

Any impression given by the Prime Minister in his summary of Col. Ralston's statement to the cabinet, a summary which was broadcast over the radio, that while the problem was "immediate" the actual sending of reinforcements could be delayed for some time was erroneous, according to Col. Ralston who said: "That was not my report."

Dealing with another passage in Mr. King's summary in which it was indicated there was no actual shortage of reinforcements Col. Ralston commented: "It is true there were just about enough trained infantry reinforcements in the areas, or being sent forward, but bring the units up to strength, but there was not a sufficient backing or pool from which to meet any unexpected increase in casualties in a particular engagement."

"In the earlier stages the pools had been maintained," Col. Ralston said, "but during my inspection of the battle areas I found that they had been so depleted as not to ensure the prompt replacement of casualties. On the advice of the commanders in the battle areas I considered that such pools should be reestablished at adequate strength. There were not infantry reinforcements available for that purpose."

Turning to the question of possible shortage of reinforcements in the next few months, Col. Ralston said the anticipated casualties were estimated on the basis of experience already gained and on the probable intensity of activity up to January next year, as indicated by our commanders and concurred in by the British higher command in each theatre.

INFANTRY SHORTAGE

Col. Ralston here made the vital point that "the forecast was that by the end of December this year a considerable aggregate shortage in infantry would have developed. For the following months the forecast was that the aggregate infantry shortage would progressively increase month by month in the new year."

This need could not be met by enlisting untrained men, Col. Ralston declared, and he added: "It appeared clear to me that enough volunteer personnel could not be made available to meet the need."

Col. Ralston went further and said he could not concur in an alternative which was to reduce our commitments or break up units or formations. "I could not concur in this when trained N.R.M.A. (draftees) men were available. I considered that at this critical period Canada's duty was to support our men in the line and not to relax but to go on with the task to help shorten the war."

"The number of men required was not large compared with the size of our army," the former Defence Minister stated. "But without them our staunch and effective striking force, the infantry units, would not be supported as they should be."

Turning to two possibilities, one the sudden ending of the war in Europe and the other that the casualties might be below estimates, Col. Ralston said: "I considered that if we were to be fair to our fighting men we could not afford to take chances on either of these uncertainties; but that we must base our plans on the carefully prepared estimates of our own and other high military authorities and act accordingly. Time was all-important."

Col. Ralston threw another bombshell when he declared flatly near the end of his statement that "as requested by the Prime Minister, I at once tendered my resignation as Minister of National Defence."

It will be recalled that at a brief press conference when Mr. King was announcing the change in the ministry of National Defence he told the press that Col. Ralston had resigned, the impression being that this was done voluntarily.

WANTED DRAFTEES OVERSEAS

"I came to the conclusion," Col. Ralston argued, "that the only practical relief for the urgent situation which faced us was to recommend that we draw on the trained N.R.M.A. infantry men whom we are maintaining as potential reinforcements, and to have them on hand in the battle areas at the earliest possible moment."

Then came the time factor Col. Ralston pointed out that while the Prime Minister stated he (Col. Ralston) had shown there was an "immediate problem" the use of the phrase "a possible shortage in the next few months" might have given the impression that Col. Ralston had not emphasized the urgency of action. "That inference would be wholly incorrect," said Col. Ralston.

At least two months, Col. Ralston explained, would elapse from the time the government decided to send the draftees until men could reach the battle areas. The 8,000 available trained draftees would not be available in the battle areas until January 1 to 15 next year, Col. Ralston said.

"This first 8,000 men would not have assisted during November and December in providing the pools," said Col. Ralston, "but it would have reassured our infantry units in the field that we were determined to back them up; it would have made up the December shortage soon after January 1; it would have reestablished the pools in the battle areas."

"The remaining 8,000 mentioned by the Prime Minister," Col. Ralston continued, "could have reached the battle areas early in February. These, with the volunteers which would become available during February and the following months would, it was calculated, see us through until June 1, with some margin. That would take up the 16,000 N.R.M.A. personnel mentioned by the Prime Minister as being trained as infantry."

Referring to the Prime Minister's statement that altogether 42,000 N.R.M.A. men were considered suitable material as infantry reinforcements, Col. Ralston said: "While despatching the 16,000 N.R.M.A. infantry men in two groups of 8,000 each we could be remustering and training as infantry the remaining 26,000 to be available if required."

Col. Ralston pointed out that while the general casualties estimates were slightly above actual casualties, the casualties forecast by the infantry "have been based on a very much higher proportion of the aggregate casualties than had been estimated."

In Case You're Interested

"Can you take an artilleryman who has known nothing but big guns for three years and convert him into an infantryman within five weeks, send him into battle and say he had a fair chance?"

The question comes from a young Canadian in the battle-lines in support of Maj. Conn Smythe's charge that poorly trained reinforcements are being rushed to the front.

The most competent man to answer it should be the new Minister of National Defense, who refuses to send already trained draftees overseas.

On Feb. 28, 1942, while visit-

ing Canada, Gen. McNaughton answered it in rather positive terms by his description of an infantryman:

"The infantryman is an all-round soldier, capable of working on his own, quick-witted and self-disciplined. He is dotted about the countryside, and nobody knows what he is doing. He has to be self-reliant and able to adapt himself to any circumstance that comes along."

Will the general say that such infantrymen can be produced in "some short period" which he hopes to have before "the great need" becomes "acute"?

Gobeil Blames Liberal Leaders For Quebec's Conscription Views

Hon. Samuel Gobeil, Postmaster-General in the cabinet of Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett in 1935, said in a statement issued here last night that the people of Quebec would accept overseas conscription with as good grace as any other province "when it becomes the law of the land, on condition that some political party has the courage to put the question frankly and honestly before them."

Mr. Gobeil, who was Conservative member of parliament for Compton 1930-35 and who now lives on his farm at La Ste. Marie, Que., 60 miles north of Ottawa, said it was false to say, as had been claimed by Justice Minister St. Laurent, that the Province of Quebec would have felt itself betrayed if the views of the former Defence Minister, Colonel Ralston, had been accepted by the government.

TEXT OF STATEMENT

The text of Mr. Gobeil's statement follows:
On November 4, in Quebec City, Hon. Louis St. Laurent, Minister of Justice in the King Cabinet, made the following statement (I quote from the report in Le Canada, the Liberal organ):

"If the federal government had decided to have recourse to a coercive measure in order to send reinforcements to our troops overseas, as was proposed by Col. Ralston, the immense majority of the people of the Province of Quebec would have felt that they had been betrayed by their fellow citizens of the English language."

Obviously, this is not the first time that the Minister of Justice has spoken regrettable words, but this time, he really went beyond the limits of exaggeration.

It is absolutely false, to say that the Province of Quebec would have felt itself betrayed by our English-speaking fellow citizens, if the views of Col. Ralston had been accepted by the government, and if it had been decided to send our conscripts overseas.

Since the beginning of the war, Quebec has done its share. Our province has furnished a great number of volunteers. Our population has obeyed the mobilization law and has subscribed liberally to the Victory Loans, as well as to the funds of the Red Cross and other works of relief and of charity.

If our province has not sent so many volunteers to the war as some other provinces, the reason no doubt is that too many of our people have believed Mr. St. Laurent when he said, in the House of Commons on June 16th, 1942:

"It may be great and glorious to fight and die for the world's salvation, for the salvation of the United Nations, for the salvation of democracy and Christian civilization; but that is the privilege of each man, a privilege he has the right to choose for himself; it is not a duty which citizenship imposes as an obligation correlative to the rights which citizenship guarantees as a privilege."

This affirmation—that it is not a duty to go to fight overseas—can easily be found also, couched in different terms, in the statements of Hon. Mackenzie King, the late Ernest Lapointe, the late Fernand Rinfret, P. J. A. Cardin, all ministers of the King cabinet, in which they voiced the same principle. I will not quote these statements, since everyone remembers them.

We cannot blame our people for having believed in these statements. Those who are to blame, and severely to blame, are the party leaders who made use of the overseas conscription argument as a weapon with which to defeat their political adversaries.

LEADERS ARE BLAMED.

The Liberal leaders, beginning with the Prime Minister, have preached throughout Quebec for 25 years, that there was absolutely no obligation to go to fight overseas. That is a fact admitted by all impartial minds.

And yet, Mr. St. Laurent now wants to place on Quebec the responsibility for the acts of his own government with regard to the sending of conscripts overseas.

It should be the opposite. The Liberal party should carry the responsibility for the attitude of Quebec province.

If the Liberal party had not made a political weapon of conscription, if its leaders had been honest enough to tell our Province that participation in a war would inevitably entail overseas conscription sooner or later, since it is against a country overseas that Canada has declared war, and if those same leaders had had the courage to admit that the voluntary system can

only give limited results and that conscription would become a necessity when the voluntary system had become incapable of furnishing the required number of reinforcements to our men in the battle line; and if these same leaders had not for years carried out a policy of hypocrisy and lying, the people of Quebec, like those of all other other provinces, would have understood that a country cannot declare war without, by that fact, undertaking the heaviest of sacrifices.

More than that, and this is what I want to proclaim from the housetops: The people of Quebec, in spite of all the poison that has been poured into their minds by the Liberal party, will accept the overseas conscription law on condition that some political party has the courage to put the question frankly and honestly before our people.

John Bracken, leader of the Progressive Conservative party, speaking at Oshawa, on October 28, made the statement on this subject which I summarize as follows:

"Unity in this country can only exist through and alongside unity of will to defeat the enemy. That is what I affirm in the name of the Progressive Conservative party. It has been claimed that, with such a policy, no party could hope to elect many members in Quebec province. I do not believe it. In any case, that is all that I can offer to Quebec, in the name of the Progressive Conservative party. We want equality of sacrifice and equality of rights. Nothing more, nothing less."

Now, there you have a frank, clear and precise statement. It leaves no doubt in anyone's mind. Mr. Bracken has put the question to Quebec: Are you for, or against the sending of our conscripts overseas?

The reply of Quebec will depend on the attitude of our Progressive Conservative leaders in our province. I am well aware of the situation that has been created in this province by the Liberal propaganda, but I affirm nevertheless that the leaders of the Progressive Conservative party in Quebec can change that situation considerably.

SEES CONSCRIPTION NEEDED

Many arguments are available to induce Quebec to accept overseas conscription. These arguments however have to be placed before the people of our province. If that task is seriously undertaken, if nothing is spared to bring into every home everyone of these arguments, the people of Quebec, renowned for its common sense and breadth of understanding, will quickly realize that the sending of our conscripted troops overseas has become a necessity, due to force of circumstances. That necessity having been demonstrated, the people of Quebec will peacefully accept, like the people of any other province, the law of overseas conscription.

On the other hand, if the leaders of the Progressive Conservative party in our province should commit the terrible imprudence of trying to follow the example of the Liberal party; if they try to play fast and loose with the leaders of that party, if they try to stir up the fires of discord and disunion in the hope of profiting by it, and if they refuse to back up fully the view voiced by the Progressive Conservative leader then they will be preparing for the complete isolation of our Province.

A fact which we must remember, a fact which it is important to stress is that in 1917 the attitude of the Liberal party and that of Quebec, attitude which was dictated by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, was one and the same, a fact which mitigated the isolation of the province, since the Liberal members from the other provinces, by standing by the Liberal leader, prevented the province of Quebec from seeming to stand alone. The situation is not at all the same today. The Liberal party, driven by public opinion in the other provinces, has completely abandoned its former attitude and moved rapidly towards total war. Mobilization, as any serious minded person will realize, is only a disguised way of saying conscription.

The province of Quebec, if it wants to stand by the attitude which the Liberal propaganda has imposed on it, will reject everything which bears any resemblance to mobilization or conscription; to achieve this result, it will have to line up with a party whose platform would be to oppose every project of conscription or mobilization. And then, Quebec would be isolated and thoroughly so; and without deriving any benefit from it, but stirring up enmity everywhere; since it would be the members of Parliament from all over

the country who would have the task of deciding for or against the sending of the conscripts overseas. If we recall the results of the plebiscite, we shall have no doubt of the fact that the great majority of members will be in favor of sending them.

We must all remember that the members from Quebec, like those of the other provinces, all agreed to participation in the war. Now that we are reaping the consequences of that participation, the people of Quebec cannot reject their own responsibilities.

The latest statement by Mr. St. Laurent carries everything that is needed to cause a fresh and redoubled outbreak of anger amongst the other provinces, against our own.

It is up to the leaders of the Progressive Conservative party in our province to prove that, here as elsewhere, the question of sending conscripts overseas is under discussion, and that the people of Quebec are getting ready to elect members of Parliament who will accept the necessities of war.

The Minister of Justice has put Quebec in an impossible position by laying upon that province the responsibility for the acts of his government.

Let the leaders of the Progressive Conservative party come here and show to the country that Quebec does not want to carry that responsibility, but that, on the contrary, the people of Quebec are ready now to accept, as they have done throughout the war, their full share of sacrifices, subject to the condition, which the leader of the Progressive Conservative party has accepted in advance, that equality of sacrifices will create equality of rights.

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MONTREAL, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13.

RALSTON MAKES THE ISSUE CLEAR.

Col. J. L. Ralston has made the statement which he owed to himself and to the Canadian people. And it is a statement which reveals that the explanation of the reinforcement situation broadcast to the nation by Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King concealed the very substance of Col. Ralston's recommendations.

This misrepresentation, which Col. Ralston has found it necessary publicly to correct, is centred in a particular passage in the Prime Minister's speech. This is the passage:

"Col. Ralston's report to the government disclosed an immediate problem which has to be faced. That problem is to find the means of speeding up the flow of fully trained infantry reinforcements to meet, not an actual shortage of reinforcements now, but a possible shortage in the next few months."

Says Col. Ralston: "That was not my report." On his personal tour of the battlefronts Col. Ralston discovered that a genuine shortage of recruits exists now. It is true that there were just about enough trained infantry reinforcements in the areas, or being sent forward, to bring the units up to strength, but there was not a sufficient backlog or pool from which to meet any unexpected increase in casualties in any particular engagement. "In the earlier stages," says Col. Ralston, "these pools had been maintained, but during my inspection of the battle areas I found that they had been so depleted as not to ensure the prompt replacement of casualties."

Obviously Col. Ralston's recommendations to the Cabinet have suffered considerable distortion at the hands of Mr. King. If Col. Ralston used the phrase "a few months", it was not to suggest that no shortage would exist until then, but to emphasize that, even if the draftees were sent overseas now, a few months would elapse before they could be sent into front line fighting. In short, Col. Ralston did not recommend that draftees be sent overseas to avert a shortage which might arrive in a few months time, but that they be sent at once in order that they might

able, in two months time, to relieve a reinforcement shortage that already exists. He stresses that if anyone inferred from the Prime Minister's speech (as indeed they were clearly intended to infer) that there is no need for immediate action, that inference would be wholly incorrect."

But Col. Ralston plainly feels that the Prime Minister has not only misrepresented his recommendations in his radio speech, but that he has deceived him through several years. For Col. Ralston says that he had understood (as indeed the public has understood) that the policy of the Government called for the overseas service of the draftees if there should ever be need for reinforcements and if sufficient volunteers should not be available. "This is what I had taken from the Prime Minister's speeches in 1942," says Col. Ralston. "It was in effect what I, as Minister, had repeatedly said in the House since."

Col. Ralston has discovered, however, that the Prime Minister has been practising deception not only upon the electors but upon members of his own Cabinet. On his overseas tour Col. Ralston had found that a situation had arisen in which reinforcements are indeed needed. This situation cannot be adequately relieved by the volunteers now in training. Nor can it be relieved by enlisting untrained men; for an untrained man, enlisted now, would not be ready for battle before next June.

"I felt that I had no alternative," says Col. Ralston, "but to recommend that N.R.M.A. personnel (the draftees) be sent overseas as reinforcements. I felt this was necessary to fulfil our pledges to our fighting men. My recommendation was not accepted, nor could I get assurance that the Government as a whole considered that the Prime Minister's speeches committed the Government to this course."

Col. Ralston then went on to disclose that Prime Minister King has not only deceived and misrepresented him, but has practically dismissed him from office. "Under these circumstances," he says, "and as requested by the Prime Minister, I at once tendered my resignation as Minister of National Defence."

But the nation will lose the whole significance of these developments if it sees in them no more than the differences between two men in public life. It is much more than a dispute between Prime Minister King and Col. Ralston. For Col. Ralston makes it clear that he was not merely recommending to the Cabinet what he, in his own private judgment, thought ought to be done. He was not merely the alarmist, unduly apprehensive of possible happenings. "The anticipated casualties," he says, "were estimated on the basis of experience already gained and on the probable intensity of activity up to January 1945, as indicated by our commanders in the field and concurred in by the British Higher Command in each theatre."

This statement of Col. Ralston's places in a new and very striking light another relevant passage in Mr. King's recent radio address. For Mr. King took the nation into his confidence, as he explained why he had turned from Col. Ralston to Gen. McNaughton.

"When I realized," said Mr. King, "that unless Col. Ralston's recommendations were accepted by the Cabinet, his resignation would follow, I felt it to be my duty as Prime Minister to seek the most expert advice I believed to be available. I accordingly consulted Gen. McNaughton."

Accordingly Mr. King consulted Gen. McNaughton, who had not been overseas for a year, who had commanded the Army in the days before the casualty stream had really begun, who had no

close official touch with recruiting conditions in Canada, and who openly declared that he knew nothing about the situation.

Col. Ralston has made the issue clear. Plainly Mr. King is determined to give political profit precedence over military need. In this emergency there are, Col. Ralston believes, only two unknown quantities. One is the possibility of the war ending suddenly and the other is that the casualties may be less than forecast. "But I considered that if we were to be fair to our fighting men," he says, "we could not afford to take chances on either of these uncertainties."

Prime Minister King, however, is prepared to take the chances. Hoping for a political advantage, he risks a military disaster.



THE PEOPLE'S QUESTION

LETTERS FROM READERS

For the Honor of Canada

Sir,—According to an Ottawa dispatch, Colonel Ralston on his return from overseas made a definite recommendation that Section 3 of the National Resources Mobilization Act be proclaimed. This would apply overall conscription and make the Zombie Army available for service at the front. The dispatch gives the following alternatives as presenting themselves:

- (1) To shorten the line held by the Canadians;
- (2) To break up one or more divisions for reinforcements; or,
- (3) To take the Canadian troops in part out of the line, and give them a long rest so as to cut down casualties.

The implications of these alternatives are obvious. Adopt any one of them and "the dagger" at the heart of Berlin"—as General McNaughton described the Canadian Army—will be appreciably dulled and the General, by joining the Cabinet, will make himself a party to the dulling process. Adopt any one of these alternatives and either the war will be prolonged or other parts of the Empire or our Allies will have to call on their much needed reserves to take the place of Canadians in the line. This while our expensively trained but valueless Zombie Army loafs comfortably at home, entirely out of the war effort and nursed here under the most tragically ridiculous policy ever devised by any Government.

Can the prestige and honor of Canada survive a situation of this kind? Can we afford a well founded anti-Canadian feeling abroad? Must the word "Zombie" besmirch the history of our war effort for all time?

The manifest unfairness of the present situation to our own fighting men and their families has been well stated by the Canadian Legion. This alone calls for an immediate reversal of policy.

The Government may by its policy retain the support of Quebec, but Canada loses its self-respect.

General McNaughton justifies his association with the Government's policy by a sincere belief in the superiority of the voluntary system as opposed to conscription. We do not know what standard of excellence the General expects of his troops, but to the casual observer it appears that the conscript armies of Great Britain, the United States, Russia and Germany fight well enough for all practical purposes. That, however, is by the way. The immediate problem is that our army desperately needs trained reinforcements. Will we send them here in Canada, or will we send them overseas or will we adopt one of the above alternatives?

In this issue the honor of Canada is at stake. Colonel Ralston, with his fine courage and background, has taken the only course open to him. Surely he and those of his erstwhile colleagues who may follow him deserve the gratitude and backing of every fair-minded Canadian

or group of Canadians in any action they may take in furtherance of their principles in this matter, and this regardless of political affiliation or the personal factor involved.

H. P. MacKEEN.

Halifax, N.S., November 8.

Adding to Bitterness

Sir.—On November 8th, The Gazette published a letter from a reader regarding the question of conscription for overseas service. The author stated that the members of the Home Defence Army are shirking their true responsibilities by their failure to volunteer for overseas service and that they should be "shamed" into "going active".

It seems deplorable that Canadians, regardless of what they think of conscription, will allow or even advocate the use of such methods of raising a modern army to fight in a war such as the present conflict. It is not an adult approach and appears to be a poor substitute for constructive action.

Certainly a policy of "shaming" young Canadians into what is generally felt to be their duty will only add to the bitterness and misunderstanding that already exists.

EVELYN GORHAM.

Ottawa, November 9.

Text of Ralston's Statement

Ottawa, November 12.—Following is the text of a statement issued tonight by Hon. J. L. Ralston, former Defence Minister, on the reinforcement situation:

On Friday afternoon last, on my return from Prince Edward Island, I had my first opportunity to hear speech made by the Prime Minister last Wednesday evening on the subject of support for our army overseas. One paragraph of the text, as printed in the press, was as follows:

"Col. Ralston's report to the Government disclosed an immediate problem which has to be faced. That problem is to find the means of speeding up the flow of fully trained infantry reinforcements to meet, not an actual shortage of reinforcements now, but a possible shortage in the next few months."

The Prime Minister in this paragraph purports to be summing up my report to the Government of the problem. My report extended through the days of deliberation which the Prime Minister mentions.

While I recognize that it is difficult to summarize such discussions, I feel that the Prime Minister's summary is not sufficiently complete to convey the substance of my report on the problem; and reluctant as I have been and am to engage in any public controversy in this matter at this time, I am obliged in fairness to the public as well as myself not to permit any possible misconception of what I reported.

What is particularly important is that the summary gives no indication of the necessity of sending additional infantry reinforcements at the earliest possible date. The phrase "to find the means of speeding up the flow of fully trained infantry reinforcements to meet, not an actual shortage of reinforcements now, but a possible shortage in the next few months," might leave the impression that while the problem was "immediate," the actual sending of reinforcements could be delayed for some time. That was not my report. There are one or two other matters in the Prime Minister's summary of which I should speak.

1. As to there being "no actual shortage of reinforcements now." It is true that there were just about enough trained infantry reinforcements in the areas, or being sent forward, to bring the units up to strength, but there was not a sufficient backlog or pool from which to meet any unexpected increase in casualties in a particular engagement.

Such pools supplement the current flow of reinforcements which come periodically from the United Kingdom and ensure that casualties are replaced promptly as they occur from time to time in the emergencies of battle. In the earlier stages of these pools had been maintained, but during my inspection of the battle areas I found that they had been so depleted as not to ensure the prompt replacement of casualties. On the advice of the commanders in the battle areas, I considered that such pools should be reestablished at adequate strength. There were not infantry reinforcements available for that purpose.

2. Now I come to the future—the possible shortage in the next few months.

By way of explanation I should say that in estimating the future position forecasts have to be made of the anticipated casualties. In arriving at these forecasts, the anticipated casualties were estimated on the basis of experience already obtained and on the probable intensification of activity up to January 1915, as indicated by our commanders in the field and concurred in by the British higher command in each theatre.

The probable intensity of activity from January 1 onwards was estimated by our own officers. In estimating for the future, full allowance was made for all volunteer infantry reinforcements which could be counted on as likely to be available.

3. The forecast was that by the end of December a considerable aggregate shortage in infantry would have developed.

4. For the following months the forecast was that the aggregate infantry shortage would progressively increase month by month in the new year.

5. I realized that the need which had arisen could not be met by enlisting untrained men in the ordinary course, as untrained men enlisted now would not be ready for battle before next June.

What were needed were trained infantry soldiers. The most thorough examination was made to find these men from the volunteers who are now in the Army. Allowance was made for all these who could be counted on for that purpose.

It appeared clear to me that enough volunteer personnel could not be made available to meet the need.

6. An alternative was to reduce our commitments or break up units or formations.

I could not concur in this when trained N.R.M.A. men were available. I considered that at this crucial period Canada's duty was to support our men in the line and not to relax but to go on with the task

trained N.R.M.A. Infantry men whom we are maintaining as potential reinforcements, and to have them on hand in the battle areas at the earliest possible moment.

8. That brings me to the time factor. The Prime Minister does say that I disclosed an "immediate problem" which had to be faced, in the phrase "a possible shortage in the next few months" might lead to the inference that I did not stress the urgency of action. That inference would be wholly incorrect.

9. The best estimate was that at least two months would elapse from the time the Government decided to send them until men could reach the battle areas. That is, that if the decision were made November 1, the first 8,000 N.R.M.A. men (mentioned by the Prime Minister as being "sufficiently trained so that they can be ready for combat at an early date") would not be available in the battle areas until January 1-15.

10. This delay might seem excessive, but it is required for the pre-embarkation procedure; the administrative and training arrangements in the United Kingdom and the dispatch to the battle areas; it includes embarkation leave, voyage, usual refresher training in the United Kingdom, and transport to the particular theatre of war.

11. This first 8,000 would not have assisted during November and December in providing the pools I have spoken of, but it would have reassured our infantry units in the field that we were determined to back them up; it would have made up the December shortage, soon after January 1; it would have reestablished the pools in the battle areas.

The remaining 8,000 mentioned by the Prime Minister could have reached the battle areas early in February. These were the volunteers which would become available during February and the following month, would, it was calculated, see us through until June 1, with some margin. That would take up the 16,000 N.R.M.A. personnel mentioned by the Prime Minister as being trained as infantry.

12. The Prime Minister mentions that in all, 42,000 N.R.M.A. men are considered suitable material as infantry reinforcements. While dispatching the 16,000 trained N.R.M.A. infantry men in two groups of 8,000 each, as I have mentioned, we could be remustering and training as infantry the remaining 26,000 to be available if required.

13. Let me make it clear that the need for these additional infantry reinforcements does not arise from having suffered more casualties in the aggregate than had been forecast.

Our aggregate casualties, that is, for all arms of the service, have been somewhat less than estimated. The need arises because the casualties incurred by the infantry have been a very much higher proportion of the aggregate casualties than had been estimated, and the estimates for the future are based on that experience.

14. The Prime Minister showed in his statement, these estimates were made most carefully. The simple fact is that the basis of those estimates has proved in actual experience to be in error so far as infantry casualties are concerned.

15. It should be understood that the 42,000 N.R.M.A. men would be in addition to the supply of volunteers which we would be continuing to send each month as usual.

16. The number of men required was not large compared with the size of our army. But without them our staunch and effective striking force, the infantry units, would not be supported as they should be.

17. There were two unknown quantities in the problem. One was the possibility of the war ending suddenly and the other was that the casualties may be less than forecast.

18. I considered that if we were to be fair to our fighting men we could not afford to take chances on either of these uncertainties; but that we must base our plans on our carefully prepared estimates of our own and other high military authorities and not accordingly. Time was of the essence.

Regarding my resignation, since the Prime Minister has referred to the circumstances but has not yet released the correspondence, I want to make a very brief statement in that regard.

The Prime Minister in his radio speech said: "When I realized that unless Col. Ralston's recommendation were accepted by the Cabinet, his resignation would follow."

On this point, it is quite true that I had stated that I would have to resign if my recommendation were not accepted. I had understood government policy to be that if there were need for reinforcements overseas and volunteers were not available, N.R.M.A. personnel would be sent. This was what I had taken from the Prime Minister's speeches in 1942. It was in effect what I, as minister, had repeatedly said in the

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1944

A NATION'S HEALTH IS A NATION'S WEALTH

PUT IT UP TO PARLIAMENT

COLONEL RALSTON'S statement of his position in the Cabinet discussions which gave rise to his resignation throws new light on the controversy that has been waged across the country about reinforcements. It does not, however, solve the problem nor determine for the public just how critical is the reinforcement situation. It does, nevertheless, join all the issues and make it imperative that the whole question be submitted to Parliament for a decision. Premier King is committed to go to Parliament before sending draftees overseas and if, as Colonel Ralston says, the issue between him and the Prime Minister relates to sending the draftees overseas, then the decision can be approved in one place only—Parliament.

In the Mobilization Act debate, on July 7, 1942, the Prime Minister made himself unequivocally clear as to what he would do in the event of its being necessary to send draftees men overseas. Here is what he said:

"If the need should arise for sending overseas as reinforcements men called up under the National Resources Mobilization Act, the procedure should be as open and above board as it can possibly be made. Unless it is understood that Parliament will be informed in advance, all kinds of suspicions will be aroused and all sorts of rumours will be in circulation from day to day. . . I intend, therefore, if the time should come when the Government decides that it has become necessary to send overseas men who have not volunteered for general service, and I should be in office at the time, to ask my colleagues to join me in seeing that Parliament is immediately informed of the Government's decision. If Parliament is not in session, I would do whatever lies within my power to see that Parliament is informed as soon as possible after the decision has been reached."

As to the time that would take, Mr. King thought it need take little time. He said:

"If the Government decides that it is necessary to apply conscription for overseas service, there need be no delay in enforcing that decision. And unless it became apparent that the Ministry had ceased to enjoy the confidence of this House of Commons, there would be no delay. Even if Parliament is not actually sitting, it can be brought together in a few days. Under our wartime practice of adjourning rather than proroguing the Session there would be no opening formalities. There would be no need of further legislation, merely an expression of confidence in some form. It is virtually impossible to conceive of a situation in which the lapse of a week will affect sending reinforcements overseas, since arrangements to that end could proceed concurrently with the reassembling of Parliament."

The former Minister of National Defence discovers a serious difference between what he said to the Cabinet and what the Prime Minister told the people in his radio address. And that difference clinches the issues. The

reinforcements be provided in good time to meet any emergency is the clear duty of Government. Since Colonel Ralston's findings and recommendations resulting from visit to the battlefronts have been rejected by what means now will the emergency determined?

The Prime Minister's decision to see vote of confidence from Parliament was made after the people, in the plebiscite of April 1942, had released him and the Government from "any obligation arising out of past commitments restricting the methods of raising men for military service," and the subsequent passage of an amendment to the National Resources Mobilization Act lifting the barrier to drafting men for overseas.

Mr. King stated further that there would be no need of debate, and that, while the House was being called together, the Government could put in motion the machinery for sending drafted men overseas. There need be no delay, therefore, once the Government has decided that an emergency exists.

The Prime Minister says that an emergency does not exist, but may arise.

It is, of course, up to the Prime Minister and his new Minister of National Defence to demonstrate that there is no emergency. That is imperative now that Colonel Ralston, the responsible Minister who investigated the overseas situation, has declared that the emergency is in fact upon us. But, additionally, if Mr. King still considers himself bound to consult Parliament, that consultation should take place without delay so that the emergency can be met with the Government in possession of every authority required to meet it.

UNSWERVING LOYALTY

CARDINAL VILLENEUVE'S assurance of French Canada's unswerving loyalty to the Crown could not have been uttered at a more appropriate moment. It comes at a time when the country is divided upon one of the most important issues in its history and conveys, not only to His Majesty, to whom it was addressed, but to the whole of Canada, an assurance that in that emergency Quebec will do its duty along with the rest of Canada.

It is well to recall just what the Cardinal said. His assurance is contained in the following paragraph:

"On behalf of the Roman Catholic hierarchy and the people of Canada who constitute the largest religious denominational group, on behalf of my own French-speaking compatriots, I bespeak their goodwill and friendship toward the British people, our unstinted admiration for your unconquerable spirit in this war and our unswerving loyalty to His Majesty our King, whom it was my privilege to assure during my stay in London that his Roman Catholic and French-speaking subjects in Canada will continue in the future as history amply proves they have done in the past, to revere, honour and serve him as loyal subjects."

There is no equivocation in that statement, and the Cardinal makes it knowing perhaps better than any other man just what Quebec's feelings are toward the war and the cause for which it is being fought. His Eminence's pride in the achievements of Quebec's sons overseas and in the war factories and on the farms at home is shared by every good Canadian. These also share his confidence that Quebec will contribute its full share to whatever other measures may be necessary to ensure that this country does not let its troops overseas down and holds on until the enemy is brought to his knees.

NEEDED URGENTLY OVERSEAS

Ottawa, Nov. 12 (CP).—Giving the first glimpse on what he told the Cabinet about reinforcements, Col. J. L. Ralston said tonight he had argued that home defense draftees should be conscripted for overseas because the need was immediate.

Untrained men enlisted now could not be ready for battle until next June, whereas 8,000 sufficiently trained draftees could be in the battle areas by Jan. 15.

In his first statement outlining some of the reasons for his resignation from the Cabinet, Col. Ralston said there might be some misconception in the public mind as a result of Prime Minister Mackenzie King's reinforcement speech last Wednesday.

"Reluctant as I have been and am to engage in any public controversy in this matter at this time, I am obliged, in fairness to the public as well as myself, not to permit any possible misconception of what I reported," he said.

Insufficient Backlog

He agreed with Mr. King there were just about enough infantry reinforcements in the battle areas to bring units up to strength, but there was not a sufficient backlog or pool from which to meet any unexpected increase in casualties in a particular engagement.

He found the pools "so depleted as not to ensure the prompt replacement of casualties." He said the estimate of casualties was made on the basis of experience already gained and on the probable intensity of activity up to January "as indicated by our commanders in the field and concurred in by the British higher command in each theatre"—Italy and Holland.

In making the estimate full allowance was made for volunteer infantry reinforcements which would be counted on and he said he realized "that the need which had arisen could not be met by enlisting untrained men. In the ordinary course, an untrained man enlisted now would not be ready for battle until next June."

Against Breaking Up Units

He said that after a talk to field commanders "it appeared clear to me that enough volunteer personnel could not be made available to meet the need. An alternative was to reduce our commitments or break up units or formations. I could not concur in this when trained N.R.M.A. (home defense draftees) men were available. . . ."

"I came to the conclusion that the only practical relief for the urgent situation which faced us was to recommend that we draw on the trained N.R.M.A. infantrymen whom we are maintaining as potential reinforcements, and to have them on hand in the battle areas at the earliest possible moment."

Col. Ralston revealed that Prime Minister King had asked for his resignation.

Col. Ralston had understood Government policy to be that if the draftees were needed overseas and volunteers were not available the draftees would be sent.

"My recommendation was not accepted, nor could I get any assurance that the Government as a whole considered that the Prime Minister's speeches committed the Government to this course.

"Under these conditions, and as

requested by the Prime Minister, I at once tendered my resignation as Minister of National Defense."

Calls Reporters

Reporters were summoned to Col. Ralston's office to receive a statement at 4.30 p.m. They stayed there until nearly 6 p.m., before the final draft was distributed.

Col. Ralston declined to answer questions, but it was reliably learned that he will start a vacation the latter part of this week and that he is not contemplating joining any coalition of conscription forces in seeking parliamentary representation.

Before starting his vacation he will endeavor to answer hundreds of letters received from Canadians who offered to support his stand. On completion of his holiday—about the first he has had since he joined the Cabinet at the start of the war—he will take up his private law business in Montreal.

Text of Statement

Following is the text of Col. Ralston's statement:

On Friday afternoon last, on my return from Prince Edward Island, I had my first opportunity to hear or see the full text of the radio speech made by the Prime Minister last Wednesday evening on the subject of support for our army overseas. One paragraph of the text, as printed in the press, was as follows:

"Col. Ralston's report to the Government disclosed an immediate problem which has to be faced. That problem is to find the means of speeding up the flow of fully trained infantry reinforcements to meet, not an actual shortage of reinforcements now, but a possible shortage in the next few months."

The Prime Minister in this paragraph purports to be summing up my report to the Government of the problem. My report extended through the days of deliberation which the Prime Minister mentions.

To Clear Misconception

While I recognize that it is difficult to summarize such discussions, I feel that the Prime Minister's summary is not sufficiently complete to convey the substance of my report on the problem; and reluctant as I have been and am to engage in any public controversy in this matter at this time, I am obliged in fairness to the public as well as myself not to permit any possible misconception of what I reported.

What is particularly important is that the summary gives no indication of the

additional infantry reinforcements at the earliest possible date. The phrase "to find the means of speeding up the flow of fully trained infantry reinforcements to meet not an actual shortage of reinforcements now, but a possible shortage in the next few months" might leave the impression that while the problem was "immediate," the actual sending of reinforcements could be delayed for some time. That was not my report. There are one or two other matters in the Prime Minister's summary of which I should speak.

Pool Insufficient

1. As to there being "no actual shortage of reinforcements now."

It is true that there were just about enough trained infantry reinforcements in the areas, or being sent forward, to bring the units up to strength, but there was not a sufficient backlog or pool from which to meet any unexpected increase in casualties in a particular engagement.

Such pools supplement the current flow of reinforcements which come periodically from the United Kingdom and ensure that casualties are replaced promptly as they occur from time to time in the emergencies of battle. In the earlier stages these pools had been maintained, but during my inspection of the battle areas I found that they had been so depleted as not to ensure the prompt replacement of casualties. On the advice of the commanders in the battle areas, I considered that such pools should be re-established at adequate strength. There were not infantry reinforcements available for that purpose.

2. Now I come to the future—the possible shortage in the next few months.

Forecasts of Casualties

By way of explanation I should say that in estimating the future position forecasts have to be made of the anticipated casualties. In arriving at these forecasts, the anticipated casualties were estimated on the basis of experience already gained and on the probable intensity of activity up to January, 1945, as indicated by our commanders in the field and concurred in by the British higher command in each theatre.

The probable intensity of activity from Jan. 1 onward was estimated by our own officers. In estimating for the future, full allowance was made for all volunteer infantry reinforcements which could be counted on as likely to be available.

3. The forecast was that by the end of December a considerable aggregate shortage in infantry would have developed.

4. For the following months the forecast was that the aggregate infantry shortage would progressively increase month by month in the new year.

Trained Men Urgent

5. I realized that the need which had arisen could not be met by enlisting untrained men. In the ordinary course, an untrained man enlisted now would not be ready for battle before next June.

What were needed were trained infantry soldiers. The most thorough examination was made to find these men from the volunteers who are now in the army. Allowance was made for all these who could be counted on for that purpose.

It appeared clear to me that enough volunteer personnel could not be made available to meet the need.

6. An alternative was to reduce our commitments or break up units or formations.

No Time to Relax

I could not concur in this when trained N.R.M.A. men were available. I considered that at this crucial period Canada's duty was to support our men in the line and not to relax but to go on with the task to help shorten the war.

7. I came to the conclusion that the only practical relief for the urgent situation which faced us was to recommend that we draw on the trained N.R.M.A. infantry men whom we are maintaining as potential reinforcements, and to have them on hand in the battle areas at the earliest possible moment.

8. That brings me to the time factor. The Prime Minister does say that I disclosed an "immediate problem" which had to be faced, but the phrase "a possible shortage in the next few months" might lead to the inference that I did not stress the urgency of action. That inference would be wholly incorrect.

Available in January

9. The best estimate was that at least two months would elapse from the time the Government decided to send them until men could reach the battle areas. That is, that if the decision were made on Nov. 1, the first 8,000 N.R.M.A. men (mentioned by the Prime Minister as being "sufficiently trained so that they can be ready for combat at an early date") would not be available in the battle areas until Jan. 1-15.

10. This delay might seem excessive, but it is required for the pre-embarkation procedure; the administrative and training arrangements in the United Kingdom and the despatch to the battle areas; it includes embarkation leave, voyage, usual refresher training in the United Kingdom and transport to the particular theatre of war.

11. This first 8,000 would not have assisted during November and December in providing the pools I have

spoken of, but it would have reassured our infantry units in the field that we were determined to back them up; it would have made up the December shortage soon after Jan 1; it would have re-established the pools in the battle areas.

Would Allow Margin

The remaining 8,000 mentioned by the Prime Minister could have reached the battle areas early in February. These, with the volunteers which would become available during February and the following months, would, it was calculated, see us through until June 1, with some margin. That would take up the 16,000 NRMA personnel mentioned by the Prime Minister as being trained as infantry.

12. The Prime Minister mentions that in all, 42,000 NRMA men are considered suitable material as infantry reinforcements. While despatching the 16,000 trained in NRMA infantrymen in two groups of 8,000 each, as I have mentioned, we could be remustering and training as infantry the remaining 26,000 to be available if required.

Army Figures Higher

13. Let me make it clear that the need for these additional infantry reinforcements does not arise from having suffered more casualties in the aggregate than had been forecast.

Our aggregate casualties, that is, for all arms of the service, have been somewhat less than estimated. The need arises because the casualties incurred by the infantry have been a very much higher proportion of the aggregate casualties than had been estimated, and the estimates for the future are based on that experience.

As the Prime Minister showed in his statement, these estimates were made most carefully. The simple fact is that the basis of those estimates has proved in actual experience to be in error so far as infantry casualties are concerned.

14. It should be understood that the sending of these NRMA men would be in addition to the supply of volunteers which we would be continuing to send each month as usual.

15. The number of men required was not large compared with the size of our army. But without them our staunch and effective striking force, the infantry units, would not be supported as they should be.

Two Indefinite Factors

16. There were two unknown quantities in the problem. One was the possibility of the war ending suddenly, and the other was that the casualties may be less than forecast.

But I considered that if we were to be fair to our fighting men we could not afford to take chances on either of these uncertainties; but that we must base our plans on the carefully prepared estimates of our own and other high military authorities and act accordingly. Time was all-important.

Regarding my resignation, since the Prime Minister has referred to the circumstances, but has not yet released the correspondence, I want to make a very brief statement in that regard.

The Prime Minister, in his radio speech, said: "When I realized that, unless Col. Ralston's recommendation were accepted by the Cabinet, his resignation would follow . . ."

Clergymen, Veterans Score Political Stymie Over Reinforcements

From scores of pulpits and public platforms throughout Ontario over the week-end, clergymen and veterans gave emphasis to Remembrance Day ceremonies by demanding that Home Defense soldiers be sent overseas to reinforce the Canadians fighting in Europe.

There was a striking unanimity of expression in the numerous sermons and addresses delivered before solemn gatherings of citizens. In churches, at Canadian Legion meetings, and in the shadow of Cenotaphs commemorating the sacrifices of those who died in the first World War, speaker after speaker pleaded for an arousing of public conscience to the gravity of the reinforcement issue.

Ministers of the faith told their congregations they had a moral responsibility in this matter. Communal leaders, ex-servicemen and others, pictured Canadians dying unnecessarily because "our Government is gambling with their lives for political purposes."

The name of Col. Ralston, resigned Defense Minister, figured prominently in many of the addresses, and he was praised for what was described as "bold and courageous conviction."

Fallure "a Disgrace"

At Kitchener George Wilkins, first vice-president of the Kitchener-Waterloo branch of the Canadian Legion, told citizens in Waterloo Park that the failure of the Government to reinforce the Canadian Army overseas was "a disgrace." Present-day conditions would have been different had the public heeded the words of the Legion branches in the prewar days, he declared.

"The boys overseas are crying for reinforcements while 80,000 are here at home living on the fat of the land and having a good time," said Mr. Wilkins.

Rev. John V. Mills of Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, declared: "Are we going to allow those who are capable of reinforcing the troops overseas to sit back and hold \$125 an hour jobs after the war while nothing is done for those now fighting in the front lines?"

Needed at Once

Members of the Peterborough Legion branch, some of them veterans of two wars, passed a resolution unanimously at their Remembrance Day dinner Saturday night approving the stand of the Dominion Command on the manpower issue. The resolution called attention to the immediate necessity for the total mobilization of the nation's resources, and requested that the Government take steps at once to implement the plebiscite and send overseas all fully trained men called up under N.R.M.A.

"Even at this late date," the resolution said, "this action should be taken to maintain a reasonable amount of unity in this country and to establish Canadian prestige in the countries of our allies."

Capt. the Rev. J. L. Hodgson, returned padre, who was guest speaker, told a cheering audience: "We shall not cease to agitate until the conscience of the Canadian people is aroused on this question."

Cannot Be Sidetracked

The assertion that "we must not allow men like Senator Bouchard and Col. Ralston to be side-tracked and forced into oblivion," was made at the Cenotaph service in Cornwall by Rev. W. S. Atchison, pastor of St. Paul's United Church, Cornwall.

"The Canadian Legion is voicing the sentiments of the plebiscite vote and also of the French-Canadian soldiers overseas in demanding total participation of all the eligible manpower in Canada to assure that the field behind the forces overseas is full," he declared. "The greatest need of Canada today is not for more tin pan politicians, but for statesmen like Sir Wilfrid Laurier who will cement the bonds of loyalty throughout our nation."

The greatest gathering of ex-servicemen in 20 years turned out at St. Thomas, Saturday night. The veterans endorsed without a dissenting voice the stand of the Dominion Command on conscription.

Neither M. F. Hepburn, a member of the Legion, nor W. H. Mills, M.P. for Elgin, attended the meeting.

Kingston Corps Acts

The King Government was censured in a resolution adopted by the Canadian Corps Association at Kingston. Failure to send Home Defense troops overseas to be used as reinforcements, was condemned.

Speaking at an Armistice anniversary service in Christ Church, Chatham, Sunday, Major the Rev. R. D. Mess called upon the King Government to implement the mandate of the plebiscite immediately and institute compulsory overseas service. He charged the Government was "gambling for time with the problem of reinforcements." Major Mess spoke on the text from St. Luke: "For what King, going to war against another King, sitteth not down first and consulteth whether he be able with 10,000 to meet him that cometh against him with 20,000."

Referring to the session of the Dominion Council of the Canadian Legion in Ottawa last week, Major Mess said that as soon as the council made clear its reaffirmation of its stand on the conscription issue telegrams came from all parts of Canada, including Quebec, supporting the action.

Concerned About Fighters

"The core of the whole matter is the Legion's concern about how the men at the front are faring," said the rector. "In the last war they knew from bitter experience what lack of equipment meant in the face of a well-equipped enemy, and also what lack of support meant at some crucial moment. The evidence is that the men at the front are not being adequately supplied with reinforcements; they are being overloaded with duty, which is causing bitterness and war fatigue, and such conditions must prolong the war and add to the ultimate casualty list. One thing is certain: we can never be happy about what is going on until Col. Ralston's letters to the Prime Minister are published. As long as they are not published, all other statements, however plausible, made by the Prime Minister, or other Ministers, will be loaded with doubt."

"The alarm caused by the resignation of Col. Ralston is largely aggravated by his own personal characteristics and qualities," continued Major Mess. "No man in Canada is better equipped to investigate, analyze and evaluate any problem in the Department of Defense. His conclusions and findings are, therefore, of paramount importance."

The speaker asserted that plausible as Mr. King's remarks may seem to laymen, they had a hollow ring to ex-servicemen. In view of Mr. Churchill's statement that the war may be prolonged and its severity greatly accentuated, the question might well be asked, said the speaker, as to the future of the Canadian troops overseas.

"What are our boys in for at the front?" asked Major Mess. "What does Mr. Ralston's evidence indicate?" One is almost made to feel by Mr. King that he is the sole custodian of unity in Canada. Well, he has had his way for a long time. Has unity increased or decreased since the commencement of the war?

Accurate Evidence

"As a congregation must our interest go no further than the sending of socks and Christmas parcels, or do we think, as a group of people, that we have a right to register our disapproval and concern when the accurate evidence, Mr. Ralston's evidence, is deliberately withheld?"

"What shall we do?" asked the minister. "In the first place we shall support as we have always done, every measure that is enacted by the Government to prosecute the war. But every one of us in a democratic state has an individual responsibility, and the time has come where we cannot any longer allow the other fellow to carry our load. I am going to write to my member of Parliament, the mayor of the city, and to any other public official, that they may not

be ignorant as to where I stand in this issue. Supposing we all do the same, what do you think will happen? At any event, we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that we have done all in our power to support the men from this congregation serving at the front."

Noseworthy at Oshawa

All across Ontario there is deep concern over reinforcements. J. W. Noseworthy, M.P. for York South, said in an address before the Oshawa C.C.F. club Sunday night.

"Neither the appointment of Gen. McNaughton nor Prime Minister King's broadcast has allayed that uneasiness," said Mr. Noseworthy. "In fact, Mr. King's broadcast in which he admitted an imminent need for reinforcements for our infantry, to be met in part by remustering, in part by further attempts to induce those already trained to volunteer, and in part by maintaining the home defense army through further call-ups, has increased the public concern. The public has long realized that the only justification for the Government's policy is the almost certain effect direct conscription would have upon certain sections of the Canadian public. These sections are not confined entirely to Quebec, though the conviction that consideration of Quebec is the Government's chief reason for pursuing the course it has, is growing rapidly in the country."

Limit to Tolerance

"The Canadian public generally has been very tolerant of the Government's action and very tolerant toward Quebec's opposition to conscription, but there is a very definite limit to that tolerance, and the latest developments at Ottawa are putting that tolerance to a severe test. There is grave danger that Canadian unity may receive a more severe shock from what might happen in the English-speaking Provinces if adequate reinforcements are not forthcoming immediately than anything that may happen in Quebec as result of the adoption of direct conscription."

"Canadians will not stand by and see their sons slaughtered because of lack of adequate reinforcements. Certainly not while there are thousands ready trained at home. The Government is overestimating the danger from Quebec and underestimating the danger from the rest of Canada. Even unity can be bought at too high a price."

Wants Draftees Removed

Branch 114, Canadian Legion, Oakville, at an emergency meeting Sunday afternoon passed a resolution authorizing a special committee to ask the mayor and council today to make immediate application to Military District No. 2 requesting removal of draftee troops now engaged in railway work in this area.

The Legion meeting was held after the annual service at the Cenotaph. In the meantime, the Legion wants Oakville declared out-of-bounds to draftees.

John G. Foster of the Legion stated that citizens whose sons and daughters are serving overseas as volunteers have complained about draftee troops being put on civilian work in a community that has such a splendid war record. At the Legion meeting, it was said that in Oakville Saturday night some of the draftees were "throwing their weight around."

Condemning the policy of the Government on the reinforcement question, Harold Miller, president of Branch 94 of the Canadian Legion at Windsor, declared at a Legion dinner Saturday night that "our boys are taking it at too rough a pace over there, and I am just as mad about it as you are." Mr. Miller indicated that his branch proposed to support the stand of the Dominion Command on the question of sending reinforcements overseas.

The 51st Howitzer Battery Association of Ottawa, made up of veterans of the first war, passed at an Armistice Day meeting a resolution urging immediate application of overseas conscription. A copy of the resolution will be sent to Prime Minister Mackenzie King.

Veterans of One Mind

When Gen. McNaughton was appointed Defense Minister to succeed Col. Ralston, who recommended that the draftee army be sent overseas as reinforcements, Government supporters expected that the McNaughton prestige would hold the veterans' organizations in line.

The result has been the opposite. Both the Canadian Legion and the Canadian Corps Association, the two main bodies of veterans of this and the last war, have been most urgent in their repudiation of the policy of Messrs. King and McNaughton to keep the draft army from fighting.

The brief presented by the Dominion Command of the Canadian Legion to Mr. King did not mince words. Nor did the Canadian Corps Association. In a motion moved by Major G. F. Davies, Dominion president of the corps, the position of his organization was made clear. Both bodies want trained reinforcements for those fighting in Italy and the Lowlands. Both insist that the Government carry out its pledge made after the plebiscite in 1942 that "when necessary" the draftees would be sent overseas.

The veterans' bodies have long campaigned for total war, for the draft for service anywhere as the most efficient manner of organizing for war. The appointment of an old comrade to the defense post has not altered their view. In fact, it has strengthened it, for they know the urgency of sending the men in the home army, which numbers 70,000, and which has many in its ranks who have had years of training.

Major Davies, in speaking on the Corps' resolution, hit hard, though under the circumstances not unfairly, when he said:

"The whole of Canada's constitutional history has never witnessed a more flagrant use of political trickery to escape the fulfilment of a Government promise. The Government has maintained a stay-at-home Zombie policy behind the shelter of Col. Ralston's promise that they would be sent when needed. Now when the former Defense Minister says he must recommend the use of the Zombies overseas, we find Mr. King evades the responsibility for the Minister's statement by the simple expedient of replacing the Minister."

Change of Ministers does not provide trained reinforcements for the men overseas, and evidence has accumulated of the immediate need of help. There is not a doubt in the Canadian Legion and the Canadian Corps, whose loyalty to the men doing the fighting is beyond question.

Col. Ralston Replies to Mr. King

Under compulsion of Prime Minister King's misstatement of the facts as he presented them to the Government in urging that Canada's conscript troops be sent overseas, Col. J. L. Ralston has broken silence. In his revelations he has confirmed the nation's worst fears. Col. Ralston has made one thing very plain: By holding to the voluntary system Mr. King and Gen. McNaughton are gambling with the lives of our fighting men.

Last Wednesday Prime Minister King used a national network to tell the nation that Col. Ralston had "disclosed an immediate problem," but went on to say that it concerned "not an actual shortage of reinforcements now, but a possible shortage in the next few months." Fearing that this statement "might lead to the inference that I did not stress the urgency of action" (as it most certainly did) Col. Ralston declares that such an inference "would be wholly incorrect."

"Time was all-important." That is what Col. Ralston told the Cabinet. On his visit to the fronts he had found reinforcement pools "so depleted as not to ensure the prompt replacement of casualties"; that after talking to the field commanders "it appeared clear to me that enough volunteer personnel could not be made available to meet the need"; that even by using the 8,000 draftees now trained for combat duty there would be a shortage of reinforcements in December which those troops would not make good until after Jan. 1.

"If we were to be fair to our fighting men we could not afford to take chances on (such) uncertainties" as a decline in casualties or an early ending of the war. "We must base our plans," Col. Ralston had insisted, "on the carefully prepared estimates of our own and other high military authorities and act accordingly." In so acting Col. Ralston rejected the alternative to reduce our commitments or break up units or formations."

Such a course, even if desirable, would require time—time in which to train the men that could be transferred to the infantry in infantry warfare. But the need was too grave, and Col. Ralston came to the conclusion "that the only practical relief for the urgent situation which faced us was to recommend that we draw on the trained N.R.M.A. infantrymen, and to have them in hand in the battle areas at the earliest possible moment."

It has long been acknowledged that Col. Ralston believed in compulsory service. But, as did others in the Cabinet, he made his view amenable to the will of the Government majority at the time of the plebiscite, conditional to the Prime Minister's pledge that conscription would be employed when necessary. Repeatedly Col. Ralston stood on that pledge in assuring a divided Parliament that the men overseas could not be let down.

Col. Ralston satisfied the time had come, that there was no "practicable alternative" that could satisfy the emergency and overcome the reinforcement shortages recommended that the draftees go overseas. But in rejecting his recommendation the Cabinet would give him no "assurance that the Government as a whole concurred that the Prime Minister's speeches committed the Government to this course."

This is an amazing revelation and one which warrants the public's stern attention. It reveals everything which the Prime Minister labored so hard to conceal in his speech to the nation five

Weekly Press Alarmed by King's Decisions

SIMCOE REFORMER
Semi-Weekly

Prime Minister King in his radio address offered nothing new to stem the wave of revulsion that has swept the Canadian nation following Col. Ralston's resignation on the reinforcement issue.

The Prime Minister based his whole argument against sending draftees overseas on the completely "volunteer" character of the Canadian Army overseas, and he maintained that it would be wrong to reinforce it with conscripts. Mr. King overlooked mentioning the salient fact that since 1941 a large proportion of the men enlisting in the Canadian Army did so because of the fact that they were "called up" under Mr. King's own ingenious brain-child, the N.R.M.A., which lured all fit young male Canadians for compulsory military service.

They were CONSCRIPTED, although it is true that they were conscripted for "home defense" only. They could not be compelled to go overseas. To the credit of many of these young men, they enlisted before the call-up was received or they went "active" upon enlistment. Other thousands did not do so. What happened? Mr. King stated last night that many thousands of draftees had eventually "volunteered" to go overseas and he predicts that many additional thousands will do so if properly approached. Does this mean that we are going to witness all over again the pressure tactics at army depots, the discriminating methods in army training centres and the shaming and taunting of draftees to go active. Because that is precisely how a substantial part of Mr. King's "volunteer" army overseas was raised. Don't let any one tell you differently, because any man who was connected with the army from 1941 to 1944 can verify that statement if he was not wilfully blind.

To talk as Mr. King does of the 100 per cent "volunteer" personnel of the Canadian Army is nonsense, and to refuse to send the recalcitrant draftees overseas because they might contaminate the troops in the field is farcical. When the Minister of National Defense resigns because he realizes the dire need for help for the overseas army and because Mr. King refuses to despatch the 68,000 zombies overseas, surely this is not the time to sidestep the issue and call for a voluntary recruiting campaign.

Having established for political reasons the iniquitous two-army system and carried the back-door conscription policy as far as it will go, Mr. King now pleads with his fellow-countrymen to help extricate him from the military morass in which he is floundering. Having lost the confidence of a large part of the nation, Mr. King should resign and make way for a coalition Government that will not hesitate to do its duty.

MIDLAND FREE PRESS HERALD

Prime Minister King presumably will tell in his radio broadcast what Col. Ralston demanded. To date he has tried to gloss it over as one of those things which speak for themselves. That does not satisfy the fathers and mothers of men who are in the front line. They want to know what was recommended and why it cannot be done.

Mr. King's Government has an excellent war record except for its mad manpower muddle. The creation and training of a home defense army at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars, made up of men who were allowed the privilege of choosing whether they would fight or not, has been a farce from the beginning. It was done to satisfy a Province which has never understood that this is Canada's war, and which still believes we

were dragged into it as Britain's slaves.

The fact that Quebec is so predominantly isolationist in outlook is due in large measure to Prime Minister King and the Liberal politicians. Year after year since the last war they played to anti-conscription sentiment so as to get votes. The Tories did it too, but the Liberals were more successful. When they might have been busy educating the people of that Province to their responsibilities as Canadians who live in the world and have duties in that world, they have been exploiting prejudice. The outbreak of war provided an excellent opportunity for a real attempt to make the Quebecers understand the issues as they affected Canada, but for some reason or other that has never been done.

And so the chickens have come home to roost.

CANADIAN STATESMAN

Bowmanville

If "everything speaks for itself," as Mr. King so naively suggests, then the Prime Minister has rejected the findings of the only responsible Minister who has intimate knowledge of present front-line conditions, and has taken the advice of those who recently have been no nearer the front than their Ottawa offices. The new Minister, Gen. McNaughton, back in Canada for nearly a year, is reported: "I've been back too long to know the facts," but he accepted office "fearful of acute issues that may divide the country." If "everything speaks for itself" there is no other conclusion than that politics, not reinforcements and saving lives, is the first consideration of Mr. King and his Cabinet. Appease Quebec underscores McNaughton's statement and Mr. King's actions.

THE MUSKOKA HERALD

It is to Col. Ralston's credit that he firmly stuck by his recommendations and was prepared to sacrifice his responsible position rather than back down. Rumors that several other Ministers would follow him have not materialized and evidently the responsibilities of office have been stressed to some of these men and they have been swayed from taking the step their inclinations would at first have dictated. The approaching election and the results of their actions may have helped them in swallowing their impulses and subduing for a time at least their principles in this matter.

Far more surprising was Gen. McNaughton's acceptance of Col. Ralston's post. Some time ago we were assured, that the general was too ill to carry on his duties and only lately he was retired to civilian

life on general's pension. In accepting the appointment he apparently accepts the principle of a political division of the army and will continue the policies which have led the Government to their present position in the manpower question.

Some sections of the country may be satisfied with the outcome of the affair, but it is hardly likely to react to the general credit of Mr. King's Administration when the advice of a responsible Minister, who studies the battle-front situation, is dealt with in such a fashion. One can well ask what are the main principles which guide the present Government in making such decisions.

FORT ERIE TIMES-REVIEW

Unless they have changed their minds, since the infamous plebiscite, a vast majority of Canadians in all Provinces but one disagree with the new Minister. It is also a reasonable assumption that his predecessor in office also disagrees with him; and Col. Ralston has had access to all the reports of officers in the field, or at Ottawa which are now available to Gen. McNaughton.

But if voluntary enlistment is to continue as the sole means of obtaining men for service overseas, what earthly excuse can there be for maintaining an army of between 70,000 and 80,000 men in Canada? After more than five years of war, these men have not been, and presumably never will be ordered to fire a single shot against the enemy. They are in uniform and under military training by compulsion, but do no fighting. Neither do they do anything else toward defeating the aggressor nations.

Surely Zombie Army Could Do This Chore

Some people think that our Zombie army is useless and just another expense to the taxpayer, which will undoubtedly be true if something isn't done soon. The law states that they cannot be sent within 3,000 miles of a combat area, but I see no reason why they cannot be sent overseas the day the war ends, as the Army of Occupation, so that our boys over there can come home to their well-earned rest.

I also hope that when the next election comes up we do not make the same blundering mistakes as the last time. We want a man at the head of this country.
Toronto. Charles Little.

CLAIMS TROOPS SENT TO FRONT FROM HOSPITAL

Prime Minister Mackenzie King and Defense Minister McNaughton "are prepared to sacrifice all our Canadian soldiers overseas for political considerations," Lt.-Col. Alan Cockeram, Progressive Conservative candidate in South York, charged Saturday evening in an address to war veterans of General Engineering Co. (Canada) Ltd.

Gen. McNaughton will be wasting his time and the taxpayers' money if he retraces the tour of the battle fronts made by Col. Ralston, former Defense Minister, Col. Cockeram said. He claimed that recent demonstrations against Gen. McNaughton prove that on this issue he has lost the confidence of the Canadian people.

Six questions propounded to the new Defense Minister by Col. Cockeram are:

"Does Gen. McNaughton know that in the casualty lists of the last few weeks many men are appearing in the 'killed' column who were sent directly from hospital to the front line?"

"Does Gen. McNaughton know that a Western Canada regiment in a recent regimental attack made the attack with a total of 92, all ranks, and that the establishment of an infantry regiment is 782?"

"Does Gen. McNaughton know that recently a company of the Irish Regiment was sent into an attack with a total strength per company of 72 men, instead of the established strength of 136 men?"

"Does Gen. McNaughton know that in order to extricate this company, two other companies were sacrificed?"

"Does Gen. McNaughton know that thousands of young French-Canadians have left Quebec and are working in essential industries in other Provinces to avoid military service?"

"Does Gen. McNaughton know that of the troops actually in the front line, approximately 46 per cent are from Ontario and less than 5 per cent from Quebec?"

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The subject who is truly loyal to the Chief
Magistrate will neither advise nor submit to
arbitrary measures.—JUNIUS.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1944.

The Deceptive 'Pledge'

For two and a half years the Federal Government has masked its misshapen manpower policy behind the pledge "Conscription if necessary . . . the maintenance of necessary reinforcements for Canada's army overseas" — Prime Minister King's own definition of the meaning of Bill 80. It has been the cloak for every deception; the stock answer to all criticism, all fears, and all questions.

No one had occasion to use that pledge more than Col. Ralston as Minister of National Defense. He stood on it repeatedly. He believed in it, and, as events have demonstrated, was prepared to stand by it. But in doing so Col. Ralston was himself deceived. In describing the circumstances under which he resigned, he made this astounding revelation:

My recommendation was not accepted, nor could I get any assurance that the Government as a whole considered that the Prime Minister's speeches (June and July, 1942) committed the Government to this course.

In effect, what Col. Ralston said was that Mr. King's word, the pledge which the slavish partisan press has trotted out on all occasions as proof of the Government's integrity, is worthless. It is significant that Mr. King in defending his rejection of the Ralston recommendation to the people last Wednesday night did not repeat his pledge. There has been a labored effort on the part of some press supporters to suggest he did. But the closest Mr. King came to it was to say:

They (the draftees) will continue to be a potential ultimate reserve of reinforcements whose compulsory employment in any theatre of war may, in the light of developing circumstances, have to be reconsidered.

The inference to those who have need of it could be that Mr. King's pledge still stands. Doubtless that is the inference Mr. King hoped the nation would draw and be satisfied with. But in today's crisis, when the lives of our fighting men are all that matter, and especially in view of Col. Ralston's statement, inferences are not enough.

By his statement the former Minister has placed each member of the Government under searching question. It is a most serious charge, and every action of the Government must be reviewed in its light. If it means anything, it means that there could be no time when the pledge would be redeemed; that the determination to hold to the voluntary system is as final, as irrevocable, as Minister of Justice St. Laurent last week said it was; that the pledge is, in fact, the greatest deception of all.

Col. Ralston said he could not get the assurance of the Government "as a whole." But there are some Ministers to whom that statement must not apply. Four Ministers at least, Messrs. Macdonald, Ilsley, Crerar and Gibson, are known to have stood by Col. Ralston during the Cabinet debate on his recommendation. By conviction, by their own public statements, they belonged there. They, too, must have been deceived. Once convinced of the need, Mr. Crerar, for one, certainly will stand by his word.

But again inference is not to be relied upon. It is for these Ministers to dissociate themselves from "the whole." They before all others should stand forth and state their positions clearly and emphatically. Their actions must square not with Prime Minister King's pledge alone, but with their own. If they meant what they said, there is now no loyalty, no political or personal considerations which can justify them in delaying longer in facing the situation as Col. Ralston has defined it.

Mr. King's Speech Censured by Correspondents

Extracts From Letters Indicate Anger and Distrust

TERMED AN INSULT

Premier King's recent appeal to the youth of the nation to do their full duty was, coming from him, an insult. It sounded like the jargon of a politician who had become "trapped" by his own devil. His advice that they shun his Zombie symbols of so-called Canadian unity and join the nation's active army if they desired to bring honor to themselves, their families and their country is an admission that he has no respect for his zombies as honorable Canadian soldiers and that they exist only as his tools of appeasement, which he brazenly uses to reinforce his anti-British army of Quebec occupation. His whole radio address regarding reinforcements for our fighting men was of such childish weak reasoning that it questions his ability to qualify for the high office of Prime Minister of Canada.

In demanding that properly trained and fully matured reinforcements immediately be sent to our "fighting men" now in dire need of them we should clearly understand that their lives cannot be saved with mealy mouthed coaxing or Premier King's empty promises. These empty promises and the fear of offending the anti-British bigots of Quebec spell disaster to those who willingly sacrifice and die for "democracy, justice and freedom."

Imagine the Prime Minister of Canada being so shackled to the selfish politics of an anti-British minority group that he believes he is democratically justified in using the nation's manpower as an army to reinforce the voting strength of his anti-British supporters of Quebec rather than use it to reinforce our overseas "fighting men" who now are in dire need of help. By this action Premier King has ignored the democratic rights of a great majority of the Canadian people whose British and Canadian loyalty is beyond question and has made himself and Canada appear unworthy of the services and sacrifices of those who willingly fight and die that we may live in peace and security. M. Roy Dies.

VERY SERIOUS SITUATION

Although our Prime Minister in his recent apology tried hard and gamely to bring the number down to zero, he had finally to admit that there were at least 8,000 fully trained zombies in Canada. Along with those not quite ready there would be quite a recruitment pool here. The first instalment—the eight thousand—could be sent overseas at once and the balance later on just as soon as their training was completed. This would ensure a considerable body of troops for immediate use and a steady flow of recruits, thus perhaps preventing even "an exceedingly small number being sent into combat without adequate training." If such were done now instead of starting from scratch to train a doubtful number of volunteers, it might help to rectify what is admittedly a very serious situation.

In passing it would seem that the number—23,000—of Quebec draftees might indicate a highly successful technique in draft dodging.

Minett, Muskoka. N. Lindsay.

ALTERNATIVES INDICATED

I listened with great care to Mr. King's "apologia" over the radio. It

appears that the Government is faced with two alternatives: First, it may enforce conscription and defy Quebec; or, secondly, it may pursue the present method. Pursuit of the present method means that hundreds of thousands of dollars will be spent endeavoring to get the 18-year-olds into active service, after which they must be trained from the beginning before they can be fit for service in the battle fields. Mr. King prefers this to the other course.

At the expense of a signature to an Order-in-Council, he could put in the field, according to his own figures, 60,000 men wholly or partially trained. These could be available for reinforcements long before the untrained 18-year-olds. It is true that Gen. McNaughton says he is going to see that these home defense men are properly trained. That raises several questions.

First, what have they been doing for the past four years at an expense to the people of Canada of \$150,000,000 a year? Why haven't they been trained before? Second, why is he going to spend more money training his home defense army, if it is going to be kept at home and the 18-year-olds sent to fight? Third, is this unused legion to be kept in arms at huge expense until the overseas men are all returned and re-established?

The policy does not seem to make common sense, unless Mr. King desires unity which can only be obtained, according to him, by obeying the demands of a minority. That may be King politics, but it is not democracy, nor is it "equality of sacrifice."

In view of the fact that the Canadian Army is now suffering for lack of trained reinforcements, how does Gen. McNaughton propose to carry out his political promise to bring home some of the boys for Christmas leave? That doesn't seem to make very much sense either.

Regina. F. W. Turnbull.

LIBERAL WANTS TO KNOW

The recent radio speech of Prime Minister King, instead of clarifying the reinforcements issue, as it should have done, has further confused and befogged it. As a bit of rhetorical fancy skating, deftly skimming the edges and lightly,

even jauntily, getting across the precarious thin ice of controversial matters, the speech was a characteristic masterpiece; but has it got us anywhere? Speaking for myself, no; only into a state of intensified bewilderment, and, as a lifelong Liberal, one who hates to see his party of 40 or 50 years at sea and trimming its sails to favorable partisan opportunism, of chagrin.

Prime Minister King certainly made an astute move, put over a fast one, when he appointed Gen. McNaughton to take Col. Ralston's position. He left the country gasping and Opposition for the moment flabbergasted, enabling him to get his second wind.

Toronto. David J. Ashbury.

RESULTS TRAGIC

With reference to Mr. King's waste of time and electricity on Wednesday evening, one might consider his position and his attempted explanation of it rather pitiable were it not for the tragic and unnecessary waste of lives which results from his policy.

It is difficult, however, to see just how he is going to get out of the particularly awkward mess he is in with his draftees. How true is the Chinese proverb: "He who mounts a tiger cannot readily dismount."

Mr. King obviously doesn't care two hoots for the army fighting overseas, so it can't be consideration for their future which keeps him from demobilizing the Zombies. He must realize what public opinion might do if those men had first chance at civilian re-establishment.

On the other hand, suppose he orders them overseas, who actually is going to make them go? If about 60,000 trained soldiers refuse to obey orders, what happens? Maybe Mr. King knows the answer to that problem he has created.

Perhaps that is why Mr. King juggled figures so adroitly in a speech in which he contradicted himself several times and which could be shot so full of holes there would be nothing left but a bleat for support and confidence.

Perhaps Mr. King is expecting that the first Canadian Army will be reinforced by those who form such a large part of it—Poles, French, English, Scotch and Dutch! Toronto. Edith Barque.

Something for Somebody's Memoirs?

Ottawa Journal, Nov. 11

Said Prime Minister King in his radio address of Wednesday night: "When I realized that unless Col. Ralston's recommendations were accepted by the Cabinet his resignation would follow, I felt it to be my duty as Prime Minister to seek the most expert advice I believed to be available. I accordingly consulted Gen. McNaughton."

In the light of this it would be interesting to have answers to the following:

1. Did Mr. King tell his Cabinet

Le Droit Newspaper Locates the Master Voice

In a translation of an editorial from Ottawa Le Droit published in the Montreal Gazette Nov. 11, the following paragraph appears:

"However, the defeat of the supporters of direct conscription will rejoice French-Canadians. Mr. Ralston's triumph would have been a very unfortunate thing for this country. It would have accentuated the deep division which already exists. No good in the direction of national unity would have come out of this victory. Politically Mr. King could take no other attitude than that he has taken. To have yielded would have been to seal his political fate at the next general elections, even before they were held."

Note the sentence "To have yielded would have been to seal his political fate at the next general elections, even before they were held."

From this it is obvious where King's master's voice is. Those whose kin are serving overseas and the kin of all those who have died and who are remembered reverently on Nov. 11 are asking themselves, "How long, O Lord, how long?" Toronto. Thornton Purkis.

colleagues, including Col. Ralston, that he intended consulting Gen. McNaughton?

2. Did he, consulting him, ask him at the same time whether, in certain eventualities, he would be prepared to take Col. Ralston's place?

3. At what stage of the Cabinet discussions did Mr. King disclose to the Cabinet—and to Col. Ralston—that he had sought Gen. McNaughton's advice, and that the general was ready to become Minister of Defense?

4. Was Col. Ralston's decision to retire from the Cabinet reached before Mr. King's disclosure that he had seen General McNaughton, and that the general stood ready to take over the Defense Department, or after the disclosure?

There are rumors that Col. Ralston did not really resign in the ordinary way, but that Mr. King, by pulling Gen. McNaughton from up his sleeve, in effect handed Ralston his hat. Perhaps they are only rumors; but seeing that they are persistent and leave a nasty taste in the mouth, wouldn't it be well to deal with them by giving the country the correspondence to which it is entitled?

Vote of Confidence Sought on Army Stand

By KENNETH C. CRAGG

Ottawa, Nov. 13 (Staff).—Parliament will convene Wednesday, Nov. 22, for a session at which it is believed Prime Minister Mackenzie King will ask for a vote of confidence on the Government's decision to continue the voluntary system of supplying reinforcements for the overseas forces.

Mr. King's brief statement announcing that Parliament would meet Nov. 22, instead of the scheduled date of Jan. 31, was made directly after Cabinet adjourned today.

Anticipated Course

One source said there was no question of Mr. King changing his opinion in support of voluntary service. It was expected he would make a statement outlining this position when the House opens and then ask for a vote of confidence.

If this course is followed it will throw the question of reinforcements open to a full-dress debate, and whether or not the Government goes to the country immediately in a general election will depend on how united the Liberal Party is behind the Administration.

Text of Statement

Following is the text of Mr. King's statement calling Parliament:

"When, on Aug. 15, the House of Commons adjourned, on completion of current business, it was adjourned until Wednesday, Jan. 31, 1945, with the proviso set forth in a resolution that 'if it appears to the satisfaction of Mr. Speaker, after consultation with his Majesty's Government, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice that he is so satisfied, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice, and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned at that time.'"

I have, on behalf of the Government, communicated with His Honor the Speaker, who is satisfied that it is in the public interest at the House should meet at this time.

The Speaker has informed me that he is notifying the members to

meet on Wednesday, the 22nd instant, at 3 o'clock.

Support for Ralston

If the temper of Anglo-Saxon Liberal members is gauged properly this stage in the crisis, there is little doubt that the answer will support the recommendation to send draftees into the fighting made by former Defense Minister Ralston on his return from the front.

It is believed that Col. Ralston's statement of yesterday touched off a new move of the Government, particularly aggravating to Mr. King was his former Defense Minister's assertion that his recommendation was not accepted "nor did I get any assurance that the Government as a whole considered at the Prime Minister's speeches submitted the Government to this issue."

The Prime Minister, in view of his statement and in view of the emphasis, over his own broadcast statement last week, that Col. Ralston placed upon the urgency of sending draftees into the depleted infantry reinforcement pools, was forced into the position, it was felt, having to make a statement.

Preferred Choice

One source suggested that, rather than embark on a newspaper war in the House, the Prime Minister preferred to place the matter before Parliament. One thing the decision does: It fixed the time in which the country may learn Col. Ralston's reasons for his stand in his

resignation letter to the Prime Minister.

Attack Indicated

Inevitably, it is believed, the Government must face bitter attack for not assuming the responsibility that it would have ordinarily, and more so since the fullest authority, backed by the plebiscite vote of 1942, was given to it when the country absolved it of its pledge not to conscript for overseas service.

In the clearest terms, Col. Ralston has been on record that, if the time came when it was necessary to send draftees overseas, the draftees would be sent. Only yesterday, he reiterated: "I had understood Government policy to be that if there was need for reinforcements overseas and volunteers were not available, NRMA personnel would be sent."

"This," he said, "was what I had taken from the Prime Minister's speeches in 1942. It was in effect what I, as Minister, had repeatedly said in the House since."

Speeches Recalled

In winding up the Government's side of the debate on the Mobilization Act amendment, Mr. King said in the House of Commons on July 7, 1942: "I intend, therefore, if the time should come when the Government decides that it has become necessary to send overseas men who have not volunteered for general service, and I should be in office at the time, to ask my colleagues to join me in seeing that Parliament is immediately informed of the Government's decision. If Parliament is not in session, I would do whatever lies within my power, to see that Parliament is informed as soon as possible after his decision has been reached."

A little later in the same debate, he Prime Minister said: "Even if Parliament is not actually sitting, it can be brought together in a few days. Under our wartime practice of adjourning rather than proroguing the session, there would be no opening formalities. There would be no need of further legislation, merely an expression of confidence in some form. It is virtually impossible to conceive of a situation in which the lapse of a week will affect sending reinforcements overseas, since arrangements to that end could proceed concurrently with the reassembling of Parliament. . . ."

Charge Time Wasted

Critics of this latest move state bluntly that the plebiscite is now shown up as being as worthless as it was claimed to be at the time the vote was taken, and since, and that the long acrimonious debates of 1942 over the amendment to the Mobilization Act, an amendment which cleared the way for the Government to fulfill its pledges and to send draftees into overseas reinforcement pools, were wasted.

Gnawing at Liberal hearts already is a fear that the Cabinet crisis over reinforcements, climaxed by Col. Ralston's resignation and the appointment on Nov. 3 of Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton in his place, has wedged a gap in any national unity that obtained, and that another new brawl in Parliament over the same issue will split the country still further and to the war effort's detriment.

Added to this, there is abrupt recognition of the bald fact that political and racial battling on the floor of Commons over reinforcements and the method of obtaining them, at this stage of the war, may not sit well with the troops either in Italy or on the Western front, who, by Col. Ralston's estimate, will be experiencing a "considerable aggregate shortage in Infantry" reinforcements by the end of December.

40 Liberals Behind Ralston

Early estimates tonight suggest that at least 40 Liberals will support

the Ralston stand as opposed to that of the leader. It is expected that Progressive Conservative and Social Credit members will support it. The position of the C.C.F. at the moment is not too clear. They are on record, that if Bill 80 were invoked and the Prime Minister asked for a vote of confidence, that they would move an amendment, demand that wealth also be conscripted and, in the end, probably support the Government motion. If any of the 65 Quebec members, French or English, voted against confidence in the voluntary plan, it would be a matter for surprise.

At the press conference Nov. 2, when Mr. King announced the resignation of Col. Ralston and the appointment of Gen. McNaughton as Defense Minister, he said he could see no reason for calling Parliament before Jan. 31.

Under Fire Since

Since then, the voluntary overseas service policy has come under fire from various quarters, including the Dominion Council of the Canadian Legion.

Defense Minister McNaughton attended the brief Cabinet sitting this afternoon. Gen. McNaughton will not have a seat in the House when it opens, but it is learned Mr. King will offer to give members an opportunity of calling the Defense Minister before a secret session. Gen. McNaughton will be in a position to place before members his complete plans for continuing the support of the overseas forces on a voluntary basis.

Four Quebec Regiments Pledge Reinforcements, LaFleche Announces

MONTREAL, Nov. 13 (CP). — Maj.-Gen. L. R. LaFleche, Minister of National War Services, in a statement issued here tonight, said that he, as a Quebec Minister, "has assumed the responsibility of arranging to find the men needed for French-Canadian units now in action." He added that over the week-end he had obtained formal offers from the commanding officers of four Province of Quebec regiments that they would reinforce French-speaking regiments now on the battle-fronts, and he confidently awaited a similar response from another regiment. "There will be others as soon as I have the opportunity to put the matter up to the regiments."

Maj.-Gen. LaFleche, a native of Sorel, Que., who was himself seriously wounded while serving with the French-speaking Royal 22nd Regiment in the first Great War, and who was decorated with the DSO and French Legion of Honor, said that it was only three weeks ago that he learned, "for the first time," of the reinforcement situation.

"I was convinced," his statement continued, "that men of Quebec would, if the situation were placed before them with complete frankness, and on the basis of equal privilege for equal sacrifice, make it their patriotic duty to insure that never would their compatriots overseas be threatened with a shortage of reinforcements. Accordingly, I volunteered to take the affair in hand, and virtually to guarantee the Province of Quebec's answer to the call for more men for French-Canadian regiments."

Patriotic Duty

"My proposal was not taken up. A change in the Ministry of National Defense followed, and I was then asked to find the volunteers. Official Offers

"I am now in receipt of an official offer from the commanding officer of the Fusiliers Mont-Royal to raise a reinforcing battalion for the 1st Battalion of that regiment,

at present in action against the Germans on the western front. "I hold a similar offer from the commanding officer of the Regiment de Maisonneuve, the first regiment in Canada to reach full mobilization after war broke out in 1939."

"The commanding officers of the Regiment de Joliette and of the Regiment de Chateauguay have given me similar assurances. "I await the offers of reinforcements from a fifth Quebec regiment."

"First Appeal to Draftees

"In each case the home regiment offering a reinforcing battalion will have the privilege of selecting the unit it will reinforce. The first appeal to 'go active' will be made to NRMA men."

"As I have always been, I am extremely proud of my compatriots, and have every confidence in them. "I have been very happy to inform the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King of these offers. He also in the hour of crisis had faith in his fellow-Canadians."

Other Regiments

In addition to regiments mentioned by Gen. LaFleche, French-Canadian units serving overseas are Royal 22nd Regiment, Three Rivers, Que., Regiment, Le Regiment de la Chaudiere, and the Sherbrooke Regiment.

Gen. LaFleche's mention of a change in the Ministry of National Defense" apparently was in reference to Hon. J. L. Ralston's resignation as Defense Minister and his replacement by Gen. McNaughton, former commander of the Canadian Army overseas.

Col. Ralston said in a statement issued at Ottawa last night that his resignation was requested by Prime Minister Mackenzie King after a Cabinet disagreement over his proposal that home defense troops be conscripted for overseas service to provide reinforcements.

A Soldier Writes Home

We at Front Don't Think War Will Be Over Soon

Below is an extract from a letter written by a Canadian soldier from Italy to his sister. At her request neither his nor her name is being disclosed.

"What do you think of Major Smythe's speech? That fellow sure talks the truth. How these big shots can get up and say that the troops we get from Canada as reinforcements over here are well trained I don't know. Some of the kids we have had come to us had never loaded or seen a gun like ours before, far less being inside our tanks. "It's easy to see it when we are in action. They are the first to get it, and usually an old man or two is lost trying to look out for himself and the other fellow as well. I think they should give Smythe a medal for getting up and speaking his mind and the truth."

"It is usually the case, too, where it's a kid just turned age for the Army and signs active right off who comes over here. Has a brother overseas and wants to be with him. Some never get to see their bro-

ther, but the brother gets a letter from Army H.Q. with the news."

"Say, you want to get a look at one of our front line newspapers. There are really some good questions asked and some damn good ideas to what should be done. However it's the soldiers' paper and never gets any further."

"Here I go making a speech again. However I'm sure you will get from this our minds are not blank and we like to see fair play in this fight. It's all very well for the guy in the office or the so-called Canadian soldier still sitting in Canada to say it's going to be over soon. Believe me we at the front don't think that way. Nor do we count any too much on this money deal after the war."

"There is going to be a lot of thinking done and I'm afraid there is going to be one who's not going to be in too much of a hurry. This isn't much of a letter but it's all there is to write about and at that I'm taking a big chance in censorship. However, I'm sure it will bring some points out that the folks of some over here would like to know."

COMMONS SUMMONED FOR NOVEMBER

4 THE GLOBE AND MAIL

WOULD LIMIT TIME TO FIND VOLUNTEERS

Brantford, Nov. 13 (Special).—Canadian forces overseas must receive adequate reinforcements without delay, W. Ross MacDonald, Liberal M.P. for Brantford City, told a Canadian Legion audience here during the week-end.

"Gen. McNaughton believes he can persuade the Zombies to go active. Every one admits that volunteers make the best soldiers. If the general can persuade them to volunteer for overseas service, more power to him. So far as I am concerned, I am willing to give reasonable time; but if the movement is unsuccessful, then the Zombies must be required to go overseas to reinforce our fighting sons," Mr. MacDonald said.

"It must be remembered that there were a great many in Canada who at one time wanted Gen. McNaughton to be returned to Canada and to become Prime Minister," he added.

Canadian unity is essential, he said, but unless adequate reinforcements are provided for Canadian forces overseas, unity will be impossible for many years to come. Members of the Home Defense Army must not be disbanded before those serving in the active forces so that Zombies can get the pick of the jobs, he said.

Rev. John Kelman, interim minister of Central Presbyterian Church, padre of the Brantford branch of the Legion; Lt.-Col. A. P. Vansomerem, hon. treasurer of the Provincial Command of the Canadian Legion, and W. W. Prior, vice-president of Brantford branch, also strongly condemned the Dominion Government for not enforcing compulsion for overseas service.

C.O.'S TO HEAR NEW DIRECTIVE ON RECRUITING

Ottawa, Nov. 13 (CP).—Commanding officers from every military district and command in Canada were assembling in the Capital tonight for a conference—beginning tomorrow—with Defense Minister McNaughton.

The meeting has been described as a "normal procedure under such circumstances" and saves Gen. McNaughton the necessity of making a trans-Canada tour. It also is known he will not make a battle-front tour until he "cleans up" his present recruiting campaign.

It was reliably learned he will outline to the commanding officers his views on voluntary recruiting and issue a new directive on the matter of encouraging recruiting—especially as to the method of handling home defense draftees.

Response to Appeal

The conference will start amid rumors that there has been a widespread response to Gen. McNaughton's appeal to draftees to volunteer.

However, no official figures were available to support the reports which said as many as 1,500 men had "gone active" since he spoke at Arnprior, Nov. 5.

It was indicated in army circles that recruiting figures might be issued bi-weekly beginning tomorrow or Wednesday. These figures had previously been withheld through security regulations.

Ralston's Statement

One source, commenting on Col. Ralston's statement that untrained men enlisted now would not be available for combat until June and that men were needed next month, said Gen. McNaughton apparently was trying to get a flood of sufficiently trained draftees to volunteer for immediate use as reinforcements.

Commanders scheduled to attend the conferences are: Brig. P. Earnshaw, M.D. No. 1; Maj.-Gen. A. E. Potts, M.D. No. 2; Brig. F. Logie Armstrong, M.D. No. 3; Maj.-Gen. E. G. Renaud, M.D. No. 4; Brig. Edmund Blais, M.D. No. 5; Brig. D. A. White, M.D. No. 6; Brig. G. G. Anglin, M.D. No. 7; Brig. R. A. MacFarlane, M.D. No. 10; Brig. G. A. H. Trudeau, M.D. No. 12; Brig. F. M. W. Harvey, M.D. No. 13; Maj.-Gen. F. F. Worthington, Camp Borden; Brig. W. C. Thackeray, Petawawa, and Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, Pacific Command.

Bracken Demands Ottawa do Duty By Sending Home Army Overseas

Winnipeg, November 13.—(CP)—John Bracken, national leader of the Progressive Conservative party, "in the name of the Canadian people and for the protection of our men overseas," called tonight upon the Dominion Government to "fulfill its duty" by making the Home Defence Army available immediately to reinforce the Canadian Army overseas.

In statement on the "gravest issue now facing this country," and in which he commented upon the declaration last night by the former Defence Minister, Col. J. L. Ralston, that the need for reinforcements overseas was "urgent and immediate," Mr. Bracken said:

"The issue is now clear. Are we, or are we not to back our fighting men to the limit by the only certain means available to us, namely—to put immediately into effect an order-in-council making the Home Defence Army available for reinforcements overseas."

The statement was issued with the endorsement of the party's national committee, now in session in Winnipeg. It said the need for reinforcements was urgent and that they could be found only in Canada, where there was a large army drafted by the present government.

Mr. Bracken said it was "common knowledge" that the Dominion cabinet was "still divided and in a state of uncertainty." He challeng-

ed every member of the government to state publicly where personally he stands in this crisis.

The statement concluded: "In the name of the Canadian people and for the protection of the men overseas, after due consideration of the gravity of the situation and with the endorsement of the national committee of the Progressive Conservative party... I call upon the government to fulfill its duty to our men overseas and to carry out the will of the people as expressed in the plebiscite by passing the necessary order-in-council and spending the available men in the Home Army as reinforcements forthwith."

Ralston Report Cause of 'Dismay' To Free Press, King's Voice in West

(Special to The Gazette)

Winnipeg, November 13. — The Winnipeg Free Press, the Liberal Government's most faithful journalistic supporter in the West, declared today that it considered the Mackenzie King administration definitely committed by the Prime Minister's earlier speeches to send home defence draftees overseas if the army at the front runs short of reinforcements.

In an editorial on Col. Ralston's statement of Sunday night, which it says will "disturb and alarm the nation," the Free Press says,

"It is difficult to believe that present test of the voluntary principle can last much longer than the end of November."

The editorial notes Col. Ralston's remark when his recommendation of immediate conscription was turned down in the Cabinet he could not get any assurance that "the government as a whole considered that the Prime Minister's speeches committed the government to this course."

Says the Free Press, "The public, it is safe to say, will greet this statement with both astonishment and dismay." It then quotes Mr. King's pledge to resort to conscription only if "circumstances should arise which would render the use of compulsion imperative," such as the need for reinforcements, and adds, "To hear Mr. Ralston say now that, in his opinion, other in-

terpretations have been placed on Mr. King's words by members of his own government is startling."

Temperature Yesterday
Max., 42; Min., 26
Same Date Last Year
Max., 41; Min., 33
Monday, November 15, of last year:
Max., 35; Min., 24.
MCGILL OBSERVATORY READINGS

TWO PAGES

PRICE FIVE CENTS

ER 22 TO FACE CRISIS CONSCRIPTION ISSUE FORCES PREMIER TO PROMPT ACTION; SHOWDOWN LOOMS IN HOUSE

LaFleche Takes Onus of Raising French-Canadian Reinforcements

Maj.-Gen. LaFleche, Minister of National War Services, in a statement issued in Montreal last night said that he, as a Quebec minister, has assumed the responsibility of arranging to find the men needed for French-Canadian units now in action.

He added that over the weekend he had obtained formal offers from the commanding officers of four provinces of Quebec regiments that they would reinforce French-speaking regiments now on the battlefronts and he confidently awaited a similar response from another regiment. "There will be others as soon as I have the opportunity to put the matter up to the regiments."

Maj.-Gen. LaFleche, a native of Montreal, who was himself seriously wounded while serving with the French-speaking Royal 22nd Regiment in the Great War and who is decorated with the D.S.O. and French Legion of Honor, said that it was only three weeks ago that he learned "for the first time," of the reinforcement situation.

Text of his statement: Reports having been made to the Government that, in the future, there may be a shortage of reinforcements for Canadian infantry regiments overseas, I, as a Quebec minister, have assumed the responsibility of arranging to find the men needed for French-Canadian units now in action.

Over the week-end, I have obtained formal offers from the commanding officers of four Quebec regiments that they will reinforce French-speaking regiments on the battlefronts; and I confidently await a similar response from another regiment. There will be others as soon as I have the opportunity to put the matter up to the regiments.

It was only three weeks ago that I learned, for the first time, of the reinforcement situation. I was convinced that men of Quebec would be placed before me with complete frankness and on the basis of equal privilege for all sacrifice make it their pa-

triotic duty to insure that never would their compatriots overseas be threatened with a shortage of reinforcements. Accordingly, I volunteered to take the affair in hand and virtually to guarantee the Province of Quebec's answer to the call for more men for French-Canadian regiments.

My proposal was not taken up. A change in the Ministry of National Defence followed and I was then asked to find the volunteers.

I am now in receipt of an official offer from the commanding officer of the Fusiliers Mont-Royal to raise a reinforcing battalion for the 1st Battalion of that regiment at present in action against the Germans on the Western Front.

I hold a similar offer from the commanding officers of the Regiment de Maisonneuve, the first regiment in Canada to reach full mobilization after war broke out in 1939.

The commanding officers of Le Regiment de Joliette and of Le Regiment de Chateauguay have given me similar assurances.

I await offers of reinforcements from a fifth Quebec regiment.

In each case, the home regiment offering a reinforcing battalion will have the privilege of selecting the unit it will reinforce. The first appeal to "go active" will be made to N.R.M.A. men.

As I always been, I am extremely proud of my compatriots and have every confidence in them. I thank them for their never failing readiness to come forward when a situation has been properly presented to them.

I have been very happy to inform the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, of these offers. He also in the hour of crisis had faith in his fellow Canadians.

In addition to regiments mentioned by Gen. LaFleche, French-Canadian units serving overseas are Royal 22nd Regiment, Three Rivers Regiment, Le Regiment de la Chaudiere and the Sherbrooke Regiment.

ELECTION POSSIBLE

King Is Expected to Ask Vote of Confidence at Session

SENATE NOT TO MEET

Question of Government Policy on Reinforcements Only to be Discussed

By F. C. MEARS

(Gazette Resident Correspondent)
Ottawa, November 14. — Prime Minister Mackenzie King announced tonight that after a brief meeting of the cabinet this afternoon he had instructed the Speaker of the House, Hon. James Glen, to request the members of the House of Commons to return to their seats on November 22 at 3 p.m.

The fact that only the House of Commons is being called to meet and that the Senate is omitted from the summons makes it plain there is no intention to have Parliament transact any of the ordinary routine business.

The best guess late tonight was that the House was being called together to debate the main question of conscription and consider a motion of confidence in the government for its refusal to send the draftees overseas.

This would involve a polling of cabinet ministers and would serve to show how those who were reported to be supporting the Ralston position now stood, and it would also be an attempt by the Prime Minister to smoke out any other possible Liberal bolsters.

Nothing but this military manpower issue will be before the legislators, according to the best information. After this is decided there would be adjournment until the New Year, provided, of course this fight does not result in a parliamentary upset or such a disclosure of opposition to the Government that the Prime Minister might decide to ask for dissolution.

This latest and most significant move in the conscription battle is taken to mean that the issue that held the Cabinet in tense sittings for 10 days and resulted in Col. J. L. Ralston being forced out of the post of National Defence Minister and Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton being called in as another desperate move to find a way out of the military manpower tangle, is now to be presented to Parliament and then a little later to the people.

The House had been adjourned to January 31 next but the Prime Minister has apparently concluded his anti-conscription policy could not take much more pounding from people and press, and that the period of waiting for the legislators and for national balloting must be cut short.

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The responsibility of tolerance lies with those who have the wider vision.

—George Elliot.

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS MUST SPEAK OUT.

The session of Parliament, which the Prime Minister has called for November 22, will provide the opportunity, not only for a fuller disclosure of the details of recent developments, but for the members of Parliament individually to declare where they stand on the issue now before the country. Such outspokenness is particularly demanded of the individual members of the Cabinet, since they all stand under the cloud of a serious charge. They are charged with aiding and abetting the Prime Minister in a policy of deliberate evasion.

The charge is not vague but precise. Col. Ralston had understood that the policy of the Government called for the use of the draftees whenever a situation should arise in which sufficient volunteers were not available. He had understood (as the Canadian people were led to understand) that the draftees are a "potential reserve", not to be necessarily used but to be used if necessary. "This is what I had taken from the Prime Minister's speeches in 1942," says Col. Ralston. "It was in effect what I, as minister, had repeatedly said in the House since."

Now, however, Col. Ralston discovers that he has been allowed by the Prime Minister and a portion of his Cabinet, to help establish, through his statements as Minister of National Defence, public confidence in a policy which the Government has no intention of putting into force.

When he returned from his personal tour of the battlefields and recommended to the Cabinet that the draftees be sent overseas to meet a reinforcement need which can be met in no other way, Col. Ralston believed that he was proposing the fulfillment of what had been the standing Government policy. He soon found, however, that the reaction was strangely different. "My recommendation was not accepted," said Col. Ralston, "nor could I get any assurance that the Government as a whole considered that the Prime Minister's speeches committed the Government to this course."

Col. Ralston makes it plain by his phrase "the Government generally" that a number, if not the majority, of the Cabinet members are prepared to become, or to continue to be, willing partners to Mr. King's policy of deviousness. But he also makes plain, by this same phrase, that some, at least, in the Cabinet do not concur in this policy.

Until the individual members declare where they stand, the whole Cabinet is clouded by the imputation of deliberate evasion. It is not good enough for the public, to have only unconfirmed rumors as to who supports Mr. King's or Col. Ralston's interpretation of the Government's commitments. Nor is it good enough for those members who are now fully aware of the Prime Minister's equivocation, and who have presumably protested against it, still to remain in the Cabinet and to share the responsibility for the maintenance of this equivocal policy.

This is no ordinary issue, nor is this an ordinary time. The issue and the time alike demand the utmost in public responsibility and private courage. Those who are ultimately most concerned and affected are the Canadians overseas who have shown that they are possessed of both these qualities.

Many and varied may be the considerations that induce these members of the King Cabinet to remain at their posts. But such considerations are to be weighed against the claim of Canadians at home and overseas to be dealt with honestly and with conscience by those whom they have raised into authority in a time of war.

McNaughton is Invited to Run in Bonaventure

Bonaventure, November 13.—(C) —The Lower St. Lawrence riding of Bonaventure has offered Defence Minister McNaughton the Liberal nomination for the riding, Dr. Alvarez St. Laurent, president of the Bonaventure Liberal Association, announced today.

The riding was represented by a Liberal, Alphonse Poirier, in the House of Commons until his death two months ago. Mr. St. Laurent said he had written Prime Minister Mackenzie King informing him of the offer.

"Bonaventure county had registered a high percentage of voluntary enlistments in the armed forces," he added.

Our Own Obligations

After all Canada is quite capable and intends to meet her own obligations, I think all will agree.

G. B. HAYWOOD.
Montreal, November 10.

G. B. HA
Montreal, November 10.

Calling All Mothers

At least it is worth a try.
Who will be the first to enlist?
MRS. M. J. LOGAN.
Westmount, November 11.

Undercurrent of Despair

[illegible]

GEORGE ST. AUBIN.
Montreal, November 11.

Calls For Referendum

FRED TROOP.
Montreal, November 12.

Montreal, November 12.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1944

A NATION'S HEALTH
IS
A NATION'S WEALTH

THE HOUSE SHOULD DECIDE

PREMIER KING'S decision to call Parliament will commend itself to the people of Canada at this time. The controversy over reinforcements for the Canadian Army overseas has become too serious to be allowed to degenerate into a political squabble conducted either through the newspapers or on public platforms. As we said yesterday, the Prime Minister is committed to go to the House for approval should the Government decide to introduce compulsion for overseas service. But he is equally responsible to Parliament for any other decision the Government may make.

On what basis Mr. King will offer the issue to the House he has not disclosed. Whatever may be the outcome of the Session now called, the House is the proper place in which to debate the issue. It should be remembered, however, that a House motion of non-confidence may precipitate an election, and by the time an election can be held it will be too late, according to both Premier King and Colonel Ralston, to get reinforcements overseas in time to be of any use in an emergency. The House does not meet until November 22nd. An election could not be held until about two months from that date, and the Prime Minister in his radio address told the country that the reinforcement situation would be acute "in the next few months." Colonel Ralston, in his statement, by stressing the "urgency of action," narrowed the margin somewhat and emphasized the need for getting trained reinforcements overseas by mid-January. Colonel Ralston is the man who investigated the reinforcement situation and should best know our needs.

It is clear, then, that the issue given to the House of Commons should not be simply one of confidence or non-confidence; the House should be asked to decide whether or not the trained draftees now available as reinforcements should be sent overseas immediately. If it decided affirmatively they could, according to Colonel Ralston, reach the battle area within two months. That would get them to France by the end of January, within a short time of the emergency period Colonel Ralston envisages.

QUEBEC WILL ACCEPT A MAJORITY DECISION

MUCH of the discussion about reinforcements for the Canadian Army overseas has centred on the attitude Quebec might adopt if the Government decided to send trained draftees overseas. Memories of the last war intervene to colour the picture, but in considering the attitude which Quebec might adopt it is too frequently forgotten that both in the last war and this, leaders of French-Canadian thought and action have declared their faith in the province's willingness to abide by the will of the majority.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, than whom there has been no finer or more trusted leader of his people, took this view, and so did his political opposite, Henri Bourassa, during the great conscription debate of 1917. There is no reason to suppose that far-sighted French-Canadians, or the mass of the people themselves, would take any other view in the emergency that now confronts the country.

It is worthwhile to recall just what views these two French-Canadian leaders held in 1917, when the country faced a situation comparable to that being discussed today. In a letter to the Hon. Newton Rowell, written June 5th, 1917, Sir Wilfrid said:

"The only solution seems to me this: Have an appeal to the people, have it right away, either in the form of a referendum or an election. Let the people decide, and if they decide in favour of conscription, as it seems to me they will, under present circumstances, from the attitude of our friends in Ontario, whatever influence I may have will be employed in pleading to the Quebec people that the question is settled by the verdict of the majority, and that all must loyally accept the issue and submit to the law; and this will be no light task, but a task to which I will devote myself with all my energy."

Sir Wilfrid followed up this statement by moving for a referendum when the Military Service Act was introduced to Parliament in the following month. His amendment was

defeated but had it carried and a referendum been held, Sir Wilfrid would loyally have implemented his promise to persuade Quebec that the majority should rule.

During the conscription debate itself, Sir Wilfrid repeated these views in the following terms:

"When the people have been consulted and have given a decision, everyone, I can say upon my honour, has a duty to submit—and I believe that I am authorized in this particular to be the spokesman for my province. Do I not demonstrate my impartiality in this regard, and is not my request a legitimate one? Who can say of my proposition that it does not conform to true democratic principles?"

In the same debate, Mr. Bourassa took a comparable view. He said:

"Following the example of my chief, the Leader of the Opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), I recognize but one master in the country, that is he who pays, he who suffers, prays, he who furnishes blood and flesh to the cannon. I wish to consult him, and I will bow before his supreme will."

These two speeches exemplify the highest form of democratic thought, whether French or English. They were uttered in circumstances quite similar, except in one important respect, to those which now exist in Canada. The dissimilarity lies in the fact that a referendum had not yet been taken, although both Laurier and Bourassa wanted one held. Today, a referendum has been taken. The decision of 1942, however the question may have been worded, was in fact a referendum on conscription for overseas service, and by overwhelming majority the Canadian people decided that it should be imposed if the need arose. The need is upon us, and the question remaining in the minds of some whether or not French Canada would accept a decision to enforce the law.

We submit, in the light of the statements quoted, in the light of Cardinal Villeneuve's declaration of "unswerving loyalty" in London the other day, and in the light of Quebec's tenacious adherence to the democratic principle Sir Wilfrid Laurier upheld so courageously, that Quebec would not only obey the law but willingly do its full share. Any scruples, therefore, based upon an assumed Quebec hesitancy to accept conscription, should not stand in the way of sending overseas as soon as possible those men already trained to serve in just such an emergency as now confronts the country.

Futile Hunt for Truth on Enlistments

Vancouver "PROVINCIAL" By FRED H. GOODCHILD. 14 NOV 44

LIKE Diogenes who took a lantern to go in search of an honest man I set out to try and find an honest set of enlistment figures, only I had to do it without a lantern. I confess I had become befuddled at the conflicting totals that had been issued from official sources.

Diogenes didn't find his honest man; neither was I able to find the correct military service figure, but I did find out plenty that was wrong with the figures issued. I found it was just about hopeless for the layman to make an intelligent estimate of the military manpower.

Veterans of the first war do not appear to be perplexed for they recognize the inaccuracies in the statements, but they were resentful at what they felt was an attempt to confuse the public and, having in mind what conscription achieved in 1918 in keeping the Canadian Corps up to strength and at peak fighting pitch, they were particularly critical of the variety of reasons offered for evading conscription now.

Diogenes wandered far and wide in his futile search and we have no record of whether he met up with any politicians or political party wiles, but the political scent was strong in my search. I sought some elucidation from a highly-responsible veteran of the last war, familiar with details of enlistment in both periods. I found him ready to take issue with General McNaughton's statement that conscription was of no value in the last war "because it was too late."

He explained to me that the reinforcement position became difficult in July, 1916, and the next year it was very bad. On June 11, 1917, conscription legislation was introduced and overwhelmingly endorsed, with the exception of Quebec, in the general election at the end of the year.

"Enlistments began to pick up at the end of that year," he said. "August, 1917, was the lowest month for the entire war and showed only 3014 joining up. In September the number rose to 3672, October 4950 and November 9451."

"The total of the annual enlistments are sufficient in rebuttal of General McNaughton's contention for they show that in 1918, under conscription, the enrollment total was 156,441, only 2500 below the total for 1918, under the voluntary system. Certainly many thousands of conscripted men saw service in France."

"The annual figures were:

1914	59,144
1915	158,859
1916	176,919
1917	63,611
1918	156,441

"The figures for the first eight months of 1918 were:

January	19,337
February	9,083
March	9,613
April	14,761
May	38,789
June	24,754
July	17,551
August	10,407

"The British Army was in the same

desperate situation for reinforcements as was the Canadian Corps at the end of 1917. It had to be reorganized. The composition of brigades was cut from four battalions of a thousand or more men each to three battalions of about 700 men. It was suggested to General Currie that he should do likewise.

"Realizing that he would now have reinforcements as the result of conscription General Currie decided against reorganization and maintained the Canadian Corps on the old basis of four battalions of a thousand men to a brigade and divisions of 20,000 each. They were at full strength at the conclusion of the war."

Warming up to the events of 1918 my veteran friend put it this way:

"When General McNaughton suggests that conscription was a failure has he forgotten that the most brilliant battles fought by the Canadian Corps were those in 'The Last Hundred days'?"

"Has he forgotten that after August 8 Ludendorff called it 'Germany's Black Day'? Has he forgotten the many thousands of men composing the battalions of the Canadian Corps were conscripts or men who had volunteered as a result of the conscription vote? Does he suggest that those men did not fight well? Actually the Canadian Corps never fought better. It could not possibly have gone down in history as the finest striking force in the Allied armies had it not been for conscription."

"General McNaughton's suggestion that it is too late for conscription is just moonshine. The fact is it is too late for the voluntary system. It has been tried and found wanting. If we wait for volunteers one of the divisions which has proven its fighting qualities overseas will be broken up to reinforce other divisions, with a consequent sad blow to the morale of the troops."

Prime Minister Mackenzie King in his broadcast Wednesday evening said only 8000 draftees have had sufficient combat training. "These men, if sent overseas," said my veteran observer, "would be sufficient to prevent the breaking up of one of our fighting divisions."

Continuing, he said: "The Prime Minister also declares that the draftee force is now 59,000, excluding the 9000 on leave, etc., but Canada At War (No. 37), June, 1944, an official publication, gave the army strength at 465,000 men, with 245,000 overseas, leaving 220,000 in Canada."

"Hansard, July 17, page 5011, gives the men enlisted for overseas service at 140,000. That leaves 80,000 'Zombies.' Eliminating administrative staffs and men of an age unsuitable for overseas service, there is a total of 46,500 possible soldiers for overseas service."

"In 1942 Col. Ralston gave the figure of \$2000 per man as the cost of maintaining and training an active service man in Canada. One hundred and fifty thousand soldiers in Canada are therefore costing the taxpayer \$300,000,000 a year. In return for this great sum we have 8000 draftees fitted for combat service."

"The total enlistments in the last war were 619,836 and the total casualties 235,000."

Parliament To Decide Government Unlikely To Formulate Policy

No Election Implications Unless Adverse Vote Met

OTTAWA, Nov. 14—(Star Special by Staff Correspondent)—Unless, in the course of its meeting, the Government should encounter some adverse vote, there is no implication of dissolution and an election in the sudden summoning next week of the House of Commons.

The meeting is to learn and discuss "the facts" of the war situation as then existing in relation to the Canadian Army and to decide what to do about it. That "what" does not exclude any of the possible courses which have been suggested.

Quite probably, some stage of the sittings may be behind closed doors for reasons of security.

Only the one subject will be before the House. No bill will be introduced or legislation indicated. The two Houses of Parliament would be needed in that case. In this instance, only the House of Commons is called back.

Various rules can be invoked to regularize the intended discussion. This is not to be a new session. The coming meeting will proceed as if the House had not adjourned on August 15, but had gone ahead on August 16.

VOTE EXPECTED TO DEFINE POLICY

Sometime in the session there will be a division, either approving or disapproving whatever policy is to be evolved.

The Government is not going before the House at the opening stage with any specific proposition and a "take it or leave it" frame of mind. The Prime Minister will make a statement, the ex-Minister of National Defence, as a private member will make another, and a free-for-all discussion, from all angles and all parties, will be invited. At the end, in some way or other, it will be brought to a head. It could be in a resolution voicing reliance in the voluntary system or in one favoring resort to compulsion.

If, by any chance, it should be the latter, it would mean conscription not only for draftees now entering but for all others who enter the category by subsequent call-ups as the need of military service is attained.

An atmosphere of eager expectancy has developed from the call to the House. Members have all been notified. The Speaker will be here at the end of the week. The sessional indemnity being exhausted, it is presumed a per diem allowance and expenses may be voted.

One of the promised features is a statement showing the number of draftees who will have "gone active" since Gen. McNaughton took over.

BRACKEN OFFERS

...ocean by a German surface raider the British tanker
was set ablaze and her convoy escort sunk.
...ships escaped, but the blazing tanker was a beacon
...doomed, the Nazis sped in search of other prey
...ordered to abandon this flaming wreck and sail

Ottawa Gives Data on C.A.A. Composition

OTTAWA, Nov. 14 — (C.P.) — Defence Headquarters today issued a statement on the disposition of Canadian forces overseas which explained the integration of Allied arms and stressed that despite the policy of interchange, formations were assured of their own reinforcements, supplies and equipment.

The statement added: "In Canadian units, for example, all the personnel are Canadian and reinforcements are provided by Canadians through Canadian reinforcement depots in the theatres. These in turn are backed up by the Canadian reinforcement units in England."

No reason was given for issuance of the statement other than the comment that press reports from Europe and Defence Headquarters announcements had indicated the presence within Canadian formations portions of British, United States and other Allied forces.

Critics Answered

Issuance of the statement follows the appearance in some Canadian newspapers of stories and cartoons in which the 1st Canadian Army has been dubbed "Czerar's International Brigade" — because of its United Nations complexion. It also follows stories in which the efforts of British, American and other Allied forces with the 1st Army have been recorded.

The statement said: "It is perhaps not so well known that the 1st Canadian Army has been dubbed 'Czerar's International Brigade' — because of its United Nations complexion. It also follows stories in which the efforts of British, American and other Allied forces with the 1st Army have been recorded."

...now working toward Britain
...attacked, who had been rejected for

THE MONTREAL WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1944.

A Reply to General McNaughton

(By a Legionnaire of this War)

Gone are the dead,
And in their stead
We live to battle yet;
Ours yet the game
And, too, the shame—
Their privilege to forget.

'McNaughton's men'
We were called then,
How proud men are of praise!
'Keep Empire dear',
'Canada's here',
Honor blest those early days.

On Britain's isle
For that short while
McNaughton's was our cause,
And flag and king
Meant everything
Midst death without applause.

Those who died
Held high their pride,
As Empire's sons will ever;

In faith they sleep,
That faith we'll keep
Nor politics shall sever.

'McNaughton's men'
We were called then,
But now we will not follow—
For he betrays
Those other days
And makes his record hollow.

McNaughton, think.
This is the brink
For Canada's name and honor,
And do no thing
To ever bring
Hero's shame upon her.

Be calm, be wise,
Cast off the ties
Of politics that bind you—
Do what is right
For those who fight,
And proud we'll stand behind you.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Strong Leaders Needed

Sir.—The Gazette is to be congratulated on the stand it has taken with regard to the draft question and I hope it will continue the good work.

No matter how Mr. King may try, I am afraid he will not be able to hide the main issue from the people. At a time like this we need bold action on the part of our leaders, not weakness and evasion.

If the Government had taken the proper and right attitude four years ago there would have been no crisis today and no disunity. There should have been no other thought from the very beginning, but conscription for all. For my part I believe the Prime Minister is simply stubborn and because of this is willing to let our boys overseas down. We cannot see it any other way. He knows what the people want and refuses to carry out their wishes.

Our best men are giving their lives, and I fear for the future of this country if it is to be left in the hands of the type of men represented by the "Zombies."

(Mrs.) E. M. WHYTE.
Montreal, Nov. 9.

The Reinforcements Issue

Sir.—Now that Col. Ralston has broken his silence and given his side of the question, the people of Canada are in a position to judge for themselves the true facts of the case, and it seems to be the consensus of opinion that the Premier, in his radio address the other night, did not take the public fully into his confidence. He seemed satisfied to leave the onus of the matter of reinforcements wholly on the shoulders of General McNaughton, apparently because his ideas coordinated with his own and left a loophole for him to continue his policy of appeasement of one section of Canada; and this, not withstanding the fact that Col. Ralston had just returned from overseas with a clear view of the requirements, whereas General McNaughton has been back for about a year and had, himself, admitted a few days after taking office that he was busy getting acquainted with secret information which the Government had and which Col. Ralston was aware of when he made his decision.

The Premier also stressed the fact that Canada's contribution to the armed services overseas was purely on a voluntary basis. While this, no doubt is something to be proud of, it does not relieve the Government of the responsibility for keeping the boys who did volunteer properly reinforced, even if it means putting into effect the mandate which they received in 1941 from the people of Canada to send conscripted men overseas if required. This time seems to have arrived and no time should be lost in implementing that pledge.

It is noted that General McNaughton announced that the boys overseas with long service would be given a furlough to come home, and that some, no doubt, would be home for Christmas, but according to a news dispatch from Italy, the boys there, while pleased with the announcement, felt that those in the front line could not be spared under present conditions and would not be able to take advantage of it—this in spite of the fact that most of them had been overseas for five years. Does this sound as if they had sufficient reinforcements? To my mind, it simply backs up Col. Ralston in his statement that reinforcements will be urgently required shortly. Most of the regiments have only a few of the original men left and if reinforcements were available they could be easily spared. What most of the relatives would like to know (and no doubt the boys themselves) is are there any furloughs, or will the boys, in order to get it, have to sign up to be used as an army of occupation after the war, or go to fight Japan? In a letter to one of the Montreal papers recently, a lady wrote that, as the women of Canada were vitally interested in this subject, they should forcibly bring this question home to the Government. She asked suggestions as to the best way to go about this. My suggestion would be for the Ladies Auxiliaries of the different regiments, or services, and those attached to the various Veterans Associations throughout Canada, flood the Government with petitions to send reinforcements overseas immediately. If this were done, it would let the Government at Ottawa know that the people were aroused and that the time for

playing politics" was past and the time for action had arrived. We are told that 8,000 "drafted" fully trained and could be sent overseas immediately, and that other 8,000 would be ready February — no doubt the Government at Ottawa (and the people) could be available in time. If they would not be able to keep our properly reinforced overseas, they could resign immediately in a general election, in which they would not doubt the necessary reinforcements. I want a Government that will look up our boys and see that they are not wasted needlessly for the necessary reinforcements. M. J. McCANN
Montreal, November 13.

Draft Issue

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The Gazette

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When the fight begins with himself, a man's worth something.

—Robert Browning.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15.

WINNIPEG FREE PRESS SPEAKS OUT.

"The public, it is safe to say, will greet this statement with both astonishment and dismay."

So the Winnipeg Free Press has declared in a leading editorial. It was referring to Col. J. L. Ralston's imputation that Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King is now attempting to withdraw from the commitments he has made in his public statements.

Certainly the Winnipeg Free Press minces no words. It declares with perfect frankness that Col. Ralston has placed Mr. King in a most unadmirable position. It makes the two points: first, that Col. Ralston has stated that an acute and immediate shortage of reinforcements threatens the Canadian Army; and second, that he is of the opinion that there is no unanimity in the Government as to the binding nature of its commitments to use the draftees if necessary.

"Both aspects of his statement are important," the editorial goes on to say, "and when its text is compared with that of the speech made by the Prime Minister last Wednesday, the reality of the crisis can now, for the first time, be placed in perspective by the public. The seriousness of its nature can hardly be over-estimated."

The frankness of this editorial is remarkable from the fact that the Winnipeg Free Press has been the most faithful journalistic supporter of the King administration in the West, and has, by its sustained editorial ability, probably ranked first among the Liberal papers in the Dominion. Throughout the years of this war, it had given full and resourceful defence to the policies of the Liberal Government.

With the Prime Minister's speech on November 8 a note of hesitation entered into its editorial page. But it still clung to its confidence that the Prime Minister was at least committed to using the draftees when he considered it necessary. But Mr. King's speech last night had one great merit," it declared. "There was in it no retreat from the position which he and his Government took in the debate on Bill 80 in the House of Commons in 1942."

Now, however, it is penetrated by a doubt, and it makes no attempt to conceal its consternation. "To hear Mr. Ralston say now that, in his opinion, other interpretations have been placed upon Mr. King's words by members of his own Government is startling. The public is entitled to believe that pledge all over again, in words that permit of no evasion. The commitment has been made. So far as this newspaper is concerned, Mr. King and his government are committed."

In a deeper sense, the Winnipeg Free Press is showing a renewed loyalty to its older and truer traditions. In 1917, when the same crisis arose, it broke the restrictions of the Liberal Party and threw the weight of its very real influence in the West behind the movement for a union government to bring about the application of compulsory military service.

It is interesting at this moment to recall the tribute that Sir Robert Borden, the prime minister in the Union Government, paid to the editor and proprietor of the Winnipeg Free Press (then known as the Manitoba Free Press). His tribute reads:

"Among the Liberals whose conception of duty had, for the time being, sundered ties of party allegiance I recall the names of all my Liberal associates in the Union Government. . . . Among men with Western associations I especially recall John W. Daffoe and Clifford Sifton. While I sometimes thought that Daffoe's judgment was not unerring, I could not and never did doubt his whole-hearted earnestness and his absolute devotion to the purpose of fulfilling our pledges to the Canadian army. . . . From first to last throughout the War, I found Sir Clifford Sifton inspired by an earnest and unflinching spirit of the highest patriotism. When it became apparent that compulsory Military Service would be necessary . . . he proffered his cooperation and gave it in the most whole-hearted way."

There are signs that the Winnipeg Free Press is again showing something of its old earnestness as to the necessity of fulfilling our pledges to the Canadian Army, and that it may again be taking a higher conception of its national duty than the restriction of present Liberal leadership will allow. In so doing it will at once reflect and influence the attitude of many Liberals in this country in the present crisis.

MR. KING'S CONCEPT OF 'NECESSITY'.

A yawning and fundamental difference in concept of what constitutes "necessity," both military and political, has been revealed at the centre of the tense national issue over the proposed despatch of Army draftees to fight overseas.

The Government is publicly committed to a policy of extending compulsory service to the battlefronts whenever it shall become necessary, and is vested with unquestioned power to do so. But it now stands fast—as far as open statements of its position to the people are concerned—upon this basic insistence: That the undeniable facts and the expertly appraised prospects of the present situation do not confront it with this long-foreseen necessity.

This emerged partly from Prime Minister King's defence of his position over the radio last week. It was forcefully clarified by the statement over the weekend by Col. J. L. Ralston, who resigned as Minister of National Defence over the issue. The deep conflict in acceptance of the facts, and in their interpretation into a plain course of policy in the light of past pledges, are emphasized by the actual conditions and looming crisis reported by Col. Ralston.

On the one hand in conceiving the necessity of sending draftees overseas as urgent, immediate and without alternative are Col. Ralston and highest military advisers in the field. The estimate of casualties and need for replacements on which Col. Ralston based his proposals are, he says, "concurrent in by the British higher command in each theatre."

On the other hand are Prime Minister King and most if not all of his Cabinet, particularly Gen. the Hon. A. G. L. McNaughton, the new Defence Minister, who has been neither overseas nor in active military duty for nearly a year.

♦ ♦ ♦

Col. Ralston's recommendations rested, he made it clear, on two main foundations. One consisted of the actual conditions he found overseas and his estimate of the immediate need, corroborated by field commanders and high military authorities. The other was his understanding—and that of the vast majority of Canadians—of the Government policy as laid down by the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet. This was, to use Col. Ralston's summation, that draftees would be sent overseas "if there were need for reinforcements overseas and volunteers were not available."

Col. Ralston says that such a need now exists and that sufficient trained volunteers are not and cannot be made available in time to meet it. Mr. King does not deny the need, but takes evasive refuge in the hopeful but unsubstantiated contention that additional volunteers can be raised by intensive appeals to draftees and others.

There can be no question of Government "when necessary" policy, as laid down when Bill 80 was put through as the Government's notion of implementing the overwhelming "Yes" vote in the 1942 plebiscite. Mr. King himself told Parliament on June 10, 1942, that the Government should have the power to "take the necessary action the moment the necessity to do so should arise." While he declared that overseas conscription was not necessary at that time, he defined the conditions under which it would be imposed as "circumstances . . . which would render the use of compulsion imperative, such, for example, as the maintenance of the necessary reinforcements for Canada's army overseas."

Canadians find it difficult and bewildering, if not impossible, to understand how the Prime Minister and his Cabinet supporters can deny that such circumstances, and specifically the need for reinforcements, have now arrived. They can only deduce that the terms by which the Government defines "necessity" and "imperative" are rooted in political expediency and wishful thinking, as against Col. Ralston's conception in terms of military urgency and adherence to past pledges.

It can only be imagined what they will deduce from Col. Ralston's further suggestion that the Government as a whole, in the secrecy of the Cabinet council chamber, went even further in evasion of the clear challenge to act—that it denied that the open commitments of the ministry tied it irrevocably to impose overseas conscription under the circumstances now thrust upon it.



CANADIAN WAR ART

10 The Montreal Daily Star.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1944

A NATION'S HEALTH IS A NATION'S WEALTH

ONLY ONE ANSWER

GENERAL McNAUGHTON has performed a useful service in connection with the public controversy over reinforcements by making public the enrolment figures of draftees, together with a breakdown of the number who have transferred from the N.R.M.A. to the volunteer army overseas. Taken together with Premier King's announcement that voluntary enlistments this year have totalled 45,000, the statement the Minister of National Defence proves o

clusively that adequate reinforcements for the army overseas can be found only among the draftees already trained and available.

Summarized, General McNaughton's figures show that 150,000 men were enrolled as draftees between March, 1941, and October, 1944. Of these, 42,000 enlisted for general service after enrolment, 6,000 transferred as volunteers to the Navy, and 33,500 were discharged. In 1944, to the end of September, 15,000 men were drafted, and in the same period 10,000 drafted men volunteered for overseas service. There was a net increase, then, in the drafted army, of only 5,000 for this year. At the moment that army's strength is 60,000 men, but of these only 42,000 are suitable for combat service and only 16,000 are trained as infantry. And the Prime Minister said that of these 16,000, only 8,000 were fully trained.

General McNaughton has already declared that he hopes to secure a sufficient number of reinforcements by persuading these 8,000 fully-trained men to volunteer for overseas service, but the record of voluntary enthusiasm displayed by the men of the drafted army since D-day hardly justifies the Minister's confidence that he can persuade the others. He himself sets out their record.

In June, when enthusiasm might have been expected to be high, 2,975 drafted men volunteered. The numbers decreased to 1,350 for each of July, August and September. October showed a marked decline to 850 men, a little more than a third of the number who volunteered in the invasion month. What prospect is there, therefore, that of the 8,000 fully-trained infantry draftees now available, anything more than one-third will volunteer. Even if the numbers were increased to half, which is unlikely, General McNaughton would not have at his disposal a number of men

Youth Back in Action Before Fit to Return

Let me express a few thoughts on the Zomble situation. As a father who has lost a son killed in action over there last month, I feel I will only be voicing the sentiments of a host of others similarly situated.

We have indisputable evidence of the need for trained reinforcements in the hell of Europe, and it is a source of wonder to me how the people of this so-called democratic country will stand for the political jugglery which King and his ilk are getting away with, while our lads are being slaughtered over there. We read of Nero fiddling while Rome burned. How much different is this situation? I submit it is up to the various veteran organizations vigorously to stir up public opinion.

My son was transferred from the branch he had been trained in to go in the infantry, and was wounded and put back into action before being fit; so I maintain it is obvious that there is great need for trained reinforcements.

Pardon me if I seem irrelevant when I ask, What did King do for the young people in the depression years, when the lads were riding the rods and living like alley cats? Now millions are wasted on a Zomble army here; no shortage of money now. Ernest Farrell.

Bartonville.

sufficient to reinforce the troops overseas. He can get the number he wants only by sending all the available trained draftees overseas without delay.

To discover the total number of reinforcements available from among the draftees and voluntary personnel, General McNaughton's figures must be set alongside the Prime Minister's. Mr. King stated that 45,000 men had volunteered in the first ten months of this year. Of these, only those who enlisted in the first two months of the year could possibly be fully trained. Only an average can be arrived at, but that average gives at most 9,000 men, and not all of these will have been trained as infantry. These, added to the trained draftees, would provide only 17,000 men at the outside as reinforcements, and while we do not know officially how many reinforcements will be required, the number must certainly be substantially higher than that. Our battle casualties have been much higher than that figure.

Of the remaining draftees, after subtracting the 8,000 admittedly fully trained, about 50,000, according to General McNaughton's figures, have been in service from one and a half to two and a half years. Presumably these men are fully trained for one service or another, for the period required for full training is at most eight months. Overseas, General McNaughton is remustering as infantry men trained for other branches of the Service, and there is no reason why the men so trained as draftees cannot be remustered and trained as infantry to provide reinforcements at a later date.

Raw recruits are of no use to General McNaughton now. He must rely on the volunteers enlisted in the first two months of this year and on the fully-trained draftees. There is no way out of that dilemma. The only answer to his problem is to send the

trained draftees overseas as soon as possible and remuster the remaining draftees for retraining as infantry or such other reinforcements as may be needed.

McNaughton on NRMA

OTTAWA, Nov. 15.—(C.P.)—Text of Defence Minister McNaughton's statement on N.R.M.A. soldiers follows:—

All members of Canada's navy and air force and of its army overseas are volunteers. Of the more than 450,000 men on service with the army, either overseas or in Canada, more than 390,000 have volunteered for the general service anywhere in the world. The remaining 60,000 are men who have been enrolled under the National Resources Mobilization Act for compulsory military training and service in Canada and in certain adjacent territories such as Newfoundland and Jamaica, which have been designated by Order-in-Council. Such men may be dispatched to other areas only by further Orders-in-Council. In addition to this 60,000, there are about 8,500 N.R.M.A. soldiers who although on army strength, are on extended leave of duty from depots.

150,000 Enrolled

The total number of men enrolled under the N.R.M.A. between March, 1941, and October, 1944, was 150,000. This compares with more than 800,000 men who volunteered for general service in the same period. Of the total of 150,000 enrolled men, 42,000 enlisted for general service after their enrolment, and 6,000 transferred as volunteers to the navy or air force.

(Column references: 1—enrolments; 2—conversion to general service; 3—conversions to other services; 4—discharges; 5—total; 6—strength at end of year.)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1941 (commencing March)	31,500	7,500	4,200	3,300	15,000	16,500
1942	69,500	18,000	1,300	8,200	27,500	
Total including:						
1942	101,000	25,500	5,500	11,500	42,500	58,500
1943	34,000	6,500	300	11,000	17,800	
Total including:						
1943	135,000	32,000	5,800	22,500	60,300	74,700
1944 (to end of September)	15,000	10,000	200	11,000	21,200	
Grand total (at end of September)	150,000	42,000	6,000	33,500	81,500	68,500

On extended leave or duty from depots 8,500 | | | | | || Net effective strength (at end of September) | | | | | | 60,000 |

Of these 60,000 it is estimated that 42,000 are of an age and medical category suitable for combat service in the infantry. Some 16,000 are already trained as infantry, about 8,000 of whom are sufficiently trained to be ready for combat at an early date.

Undergoing Training

The remaining 26,000, who are of an age and category suitable for infantry, are presently on

Military Districts Where Enrolled

	1941	1942	1943	1944	Total
No. 1, 2 and 3 (Ontario) ..	900	6,800	4,900	2,400	15,000
No. 4 and 5 (Quebec)	2,900	8,800	6,100	5,000	22,800
No. 6 and 7 (Maritimes) ..	400	1,800	1,500	600	4,300
No. 10, 12 and 13 (Prairies) ..	1,700	6,200	4,200	1,700	13,800
Pacific Command (British Columbia)	300	1,800	1,200	800	4,100
Total	6,200	25,400	17,900	10,500	x-60,000

x—Figures not adjusted for part of Quebec included in M.D. 3 and part of Ontario included in M.D. 10.

The 42,000 suitable for employment as infantry are by district of enrolment as follows:

Military districts where enrolled	
No. 1, 2 and 3 (Ontario) ..	10,250
No. 4 and 5 (Quebec)	16,300
No. 6 and 7 (Maritimes) ..	2,600
No. 10, 12 and 13 (Prairies) ..	10,000
Pacific Command (British Columbia)	2,850
Total	x-42,000

x—Figures not adjusted for part of Quebec included in M.D. 3 and part of Ontario included in M.D. 10.

The 8,500 on extended leave or duty from depots were engaged as follows:

Farm duty	200
Farm leave—	
compassionate	5,400
harvest	500
industry	400
logging	100
mining	500
other similar leaves	1,400
Total	8,500

Languages of the 60,000 N.R.M.A. men now on strength are as follows:

English only	17,800
French only	12,100
English and French	14,400
Foreign languages	x-15,700
Total	60,000

x—Generally able to speak other English or French also. (In all tabulations figures are given in round numbers.)

Discharges, etc., accounted for 33,500.

In 1944 to the end of September, nearly 15,000 men were enrolled under the N.R.M.A. In the same period 10,000 enrolled men volunteered for general service. Since the invasion of western Europe began on June 6, 1944, voluntary enlistments for overseas service on the part of N.R.M.A. men have been greater in number than the enrolments of compulsory service men during the same period, as shown in the following table:

(Column references: 1—Enrolments under N.R.M.A.; 2—voluntary enlistments from N.R.M.A.; 3—Excess of voluntary enlistments over enrolment.)

	(1)	(2)	(3)
June	1,300	2,975	1,475
July	1,350	1,350	
August	1,225	1,350	125
September	1,050	1,350	300
October	1,075	850	-225
Total	6,200	7,875	1,675

Per Cent of Total

Nearly 975,000 men have entered all three fighting services during the war. The number of N.R.M.A. men still on the strength of the army who have failed to volunteer for service anywhere in the world is about 7 per cent of this total.

Following is a summary of N.R.M.A. enrolments, conversions to general service, discharges, etc., from the time men were first enrolled for the duration of the war, which was March, 1941:

(Column references: 1—enrolments; 2—conversion to general service; 3—conversions to other services; 4—discharges; 5—total; 6—strength at end of year.)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1941 (commencing March)	31,500	7,500	4,200	3,300	15,000	16,500
1942	69,500	18,000	1,300	8,200	27,500	
Total including:						
1942	101,000	25,500	5,500	11,500	42,500	58,500
1943	34,000	6,500	300	11,000	17,800	
Total including:						
1943	135,000	32,000	5,800	22,500	60,300	74,700
1944 (to end of September)	15,000	10,000	200	11,000	21,200	
Grand total (at end of September)	150,000	42,000	6,000	33,500	81,500	68,500

On extended leave or duty from depots 8,500 | | | | | || Net effective strength (at end of September) | | | | | | 60,000 |

the strength of the units of the other arms and services where they are undergoing training or engaged in duties related to the continuing but diminishing requirements for the defence of Canada and certain outlying territories for which Canada has assumed certain responsibilities.

The year of enrolment of those men still on strength as N.R.M.A. men at the end of September, 1944, was as follows by military districts:

	1941	1942	1943	1944	Total
No. 1, 2 and 3 (Ontario) ..	900	6,800	4,900	2,400	15,000
No. 4 and 5 (Quebec)	2,900	8,800	6,100	5,000	22,800
No. 6 and 7 (Maritimes) ..	400	1,800	1,500	600	4,300
No. 10, 12 and 13 (Prairies) ..	1,700	6,200	4,200	1,700	13,800
Pacific Command (British Columbia)	300	1,800	1,200	800	4,100
Total	6,200	25,400	17,900	10,500	x-60,000

x—Figures not adjusted for part of Quebec included in M.D. 3 and part of Ontario included in M.D. 10.

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No. 6 and 7 (Maritimes) ..	2,600
No. 10, 12 and 13 (Prairies) ..	10,000
Pacific Command (British Columbia)	2,850
Total	x-42,000

x—Figures not adjusted for part of Quebec included in M.D. 3 and part of Ontario included in M.D. 10.

The 8,500 on extended leave or duty from depots were engaged as follows:

Farm duty	200
Farm leave—	
compassionate	5,400
harvest	500
industry	400
logging	100
mining	500
other similar leaves	1,400
Total	8,500

Languages of the 60,000 N.R.M.A. men now on strength are as follows:

English only	17,800
French only	12,100
English and French	14,400
Foreign languages	x-15,700
Total	60,000

x—Generally able to speak other English or French also. (In all tabulations figures are given in round numbers.)

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The subject who is truly loyal to the Chief Magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures.—JUNIUS.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1944.

The Nation Must Know

Had Quebec voted "Yes" in the plebiscite, would there be any delay in reinforcing our armies overseas?

The question is one which every Canadian can answer from the evidence at hand. But it is a question to keep in mind, for it is fundamental to the course which Prime Minister King will follow when the House of Commons reassembles a week from today.

Whatever new manoeuvring the Prime Minister may have in mind, the position of the House of Commons is fixed, determined by the Government's own legislation, and enclosed within the issues Col. Ralston has drawn.

The House is not concerned with the merits or demerits of conscription as posed by the Government's adherence to the voluntary method, and argued by Mr. King last Wednesday night. That matter was settled more than two years ago with the passage of Bill 80. The Prime Minister himself blocked its re-entry into future Commons debate on July 7, 1942, in these terms:

"May I say as emphatically as I can that in no case would I wish to countenance a second debate on conscription. . . . Honorable members (will be given) an opportunity, not for any second debate on the question of conscription, but of showing their confidence or want of confidence in the Administration."

The issues are simple. As Col. Ralston stated them, they are: Is the Prime Minister's pledge of "conscription if necessary" binding on the Government? Shall the draftees be sent overseas as reinforcements now, or shall they not be sent? Shall the lives of our men continue to be wasted, or shall they not?

The Ministers, man by man, must clear themselves of Col. Ralston's charge that he could obtain no assurance that the Government as a whole considered itself committed by the Prime Minister's pledge. It has then to establish beyond any question of doubt, in pursuing its policy of volunteer reinforcements, that Col. Ralston's estimate of the immediate need is incorrect; that, contrary to the information the military authorities gave him, there is no present shortage and not likely to be a shortage of trained reinforcements.

Col. Ralston said that even Nov. 22 is too late to meet the need. He said that even had the Government acted Nov. 1 it would be at least two months before the draftees could reach the battle areas, and that when they did there would be a deficit from December to make good.

These are the factors defining the issue, whatever course the Government may follow. It is on these and these alone that the Canadian people demand satisfaction. And they are the ones who must be satisfied. No member can go into the House of Commons and seek satisfaction behind closed doors. Secrecy will not be tolerated. The evidence must be brought into the open and the decisions taken there, and every head counted.

No More Corners to Turn

Since Mr. King, on March 25, 1937, told the House of Commons he thought it "extremely doubtful if any of the British Dominions would ever send another expeditionary force to Europe"—a statement he repeated less than six months before Hitler plunged the world into the abyss of war—he has turned off the straight course to duty at many corners. Today no new turns remain.

Two months after the first announcement he visited Europe. He talked with Hitler and his gang. The shadow of war was hanging heavily on March 3, 1939, when the doubt was again expressed during a foreign policy debate. Mr. King then said: "The present Government believes that conscription of men for overseas service would not be a necessary or an effective step. Let me say that, so long as this Government may be in power, no such measure will be enacted." He said further: "There are objectives the people have come to believe are worth striving for, but they do not necessarily consider them worth dying for."

Mr. King's doubts about an expeditionary force were removed quickly by pressure of public opinion. He has resisted public pressure in devious ways to cling to his anti-conscription pronouncement.

Tortuous as his course has been, it has not been consistent, except in his evident determination to dodge the real issue. On Sept. 8, 1939, he said: "If Britain goes down there will in time be no freedom on this continent," and: "We saw forces loosed upon the world which, if not subdued and conquered overseas, sooner or later would be at our very doors." The Emergency Powers Bill was passed to mobilize resources "for the defense and security of Canada."

In his Mansion House address, Sept. 4, 1941, he said it was the policy of his Government to have "troops serve in those theatres where, viewing the war as a whole, it is believed their services will count most." Two months later in the Canadian House of Commons he said: "I want it to be distinctly understood that, so far as the principle of compulsory selective service is concerned for Canada, in Canada, I stand for that principle."

On the eve of the plebiscite, in a signed advertisement: "We cannot defend our country and save our homes and families by waiting at home for the enemy to attack us. Every country that has stood behind its own defenses in this war has sooner or later been attacked."

There was the Emergency Powers Act mobilizing all resources, "human and material." But it was for the defense of Canada, although the only effective defense could be overseas. There was the Prime Minister's announcement on June 10, 1942, that compulsory selective service would be used (as it is not being used) to provide "an adequate supply of manpower for all phases of our total-war effort."

More than two years have passed since Mr. King hailed the result of the plebiscite as expressing the will of the majority, asked for by the Government, but around it has echoed steadily, even as boys are dying for lack of help, the

assertion that conscription for overseas is not necessary or effective.

There is only one answer to this long compromise with principle, and what it is the public at large understands. Instead of steering straight to the issues of war, the Prime Minister has been playing politics with the war. This is why his policies have been called cowardly, why a Cabinet crisis has been precipitated, why he has reached the end of successful political expedients, why the people no longer trust him.

Gen. LaFleche's Promises

From the actions of Defense Minister McNaughton and War Services Minister LaFleche the new tactic to avoid having the Order-in-Council signed which would send the draftees overseas as reinforcements is becoming clear.

The plan is to provide a list of figures which would be used to give the impression that the McNaughton drive to persuade new men to go overseas instead of sending the trained draftees had some success. Members of the Ottawa staff at National Defense Headquarters have been ordered overseas. Although they will not be of much use in the line because of lack of training, they will add to figures which can be quoted to the public.

The same goes for Mr. LaFleche's announcement that he is getting certain O.C.'s of French-Canadian units to promise that they would undertake to provide reinforcements for their units in battle.

In his announcement Gen. LaFleche takes a sideswipe at Col. Ralston. Rather than do this, the War Services Minister might have explained to the country why he has not joined the former Defense Minister in urging that the draftees be sent abroad, in view of his own promises, frequently made, that he was in favor of conscription for overseas service.

On Oct. 7, 1942, Gen. LaFleche was appointed to the Cabinet. Previously, when he was trying to get public support for a Cabinet appointment, he told a great number of people and organizations that he, in the Cabinet, would be able to have Quebec accept conscription for overseas service, and that his Province would accept it if it were explained that a need existed.

His public record is clear. On Jan. 12, 1942, Gen. LaFleche spoke before the Canadian Railway Club at Montreal. He is reported as having said there: "Canadian boys overseas have the first call upon everything we have; our lives as well as our wealth. They defend us; we must back them to the end. Let there be no talk of seeing our overseas forces going short of supplies or reinforcements. That would be treachery to our sons."

On May 26, 1942, he spoke at the Canadian Legion convention held in Winnipeg. He was then Associate Deputy Minister of National War Services. The Legion had just passed unanimously its resolution for total war, including the drafting of men for overseas service. He was reported as follows: "I do say that it is in the interest of each part of this country and each racial group not to accept conscription, but to demand it." He is also reported as having said: "Conscription would have a devastating effect on the enemy."

On Nov. 30, 1942, Gen. LaFleche was elected to the House of Commons in a by-election with the overwhelming support of English-speaking Canadians who were given to understand he was in favor of conscription for overseas service.

On Dec. 7, 1942, he spoke to the Canadian Club in Toronto. This is from the news report of that meeting: "Quebec Province has again held out the hand of brotherhood," said Gen. LaFleche, who was introduced to the club as 'a total-war man in favor of conscription for overseas service,' and who added that he had been elected last week in Outremont-Montreal on a 'win-the-war platform.'"

In that speech Gen. LaFleche also said: "Only the ideal of equality of sacrifice and of privilege, converted quickly and as nearly as possible into a reality, can be the basis for a total-war effort which I hold is an absolute necessity."

Gen. LaFleche now has his opportunity to fulfill the promises he made in favor of the draft for overseas service, to provide the only type of trained reinforcements which can help succor the men locked in mortal combat with the enemy.

Premier's Radio Speech 'Lot of Utter Tripe'

I listened to the Prime Minister's recent radio address out of sheer curiosity to see what he could possibly say in respect of the mess of disunity into which his policy has brought the country, and I don't think in my life I ever listened to such a lot of utter tripe, particularly that nauseating ballyhoo intended as an exhortation which came at the end. Mr. King's juggling with figures is truly amazing.

What defense can he possibly make for the principle of voluntary enlistment, particularly when you regard the armies of Great Britain, Germany, Russia, and the United States and the results that they get from conscription? How would our Government like to try a voluntary system of taxation? The voluntary system as it is operated in this country is unjust, cruel and contemptibly weak-kneed.

Switzerland, the most democratic country in the world, is descended from three nationalities, and three languages are spoken there. They have conscription and like it.

Another thing. Our Victory bonds, Dominion currency, and any literature or circulars that I see issued by Ottawa are always printed or engraved in both English and French. This radio address to all the people of Canada was in English only, and I hear of no plan to have it translated into French and rebroadcast; and I am trying to decide who are insulted the most by this—the English-speaking people or the French-speaking people. Geo. E. Watson. Toronto.

What Will the Zombies Tell Children About War?

At the moment, controversial questions are the Zombie army, Gen. McNaughton and Col. Ralston. These questions hold the spotlight. I fully agree with all extracts from newspapers published in The Globe and Mail on Nov. 9. The Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph is telling the truth, as I see and understand things dealt with. I hope they will at least, in some way, restore the whole truth concerning the above three questions.

My high opinion of Col. Ralston forbids comparison.

As I sit back in retrospect, I ask myself questions and I wonder how the members of this Zombie army will explain their exploits to their children or grandchildren regarding the present war.

Peterborough. T. H. Squire.

Speaks for Companions

What is the matter with the Government that it lets fellows who volunteered to save our country lose their lives and the Zombies, who are well trained, stay here?

I enlisted in 1941 and helped vote conscription in; so why can't we vote them over? Fully 95 per cent of the fellows in camp here feel the same way.

This is one more letter you can add to your probable pile like this. You may publish this if you want to, as I don't care who knows how I feel and I have an awful lot of the fellows in this camp to back me up.

R282462 Ac2 Huddleston, F.D., No. 4 R.C., Toronto, RCAF.

Too Hard For Zombies

General McNaughton's problem now seems to be: "What to do with the Zombies when he deprives them of living on the fat of the land, many of them obtaining remunerations on a scale which (he says) is quite fantastic." It may be recalled 60 such were sent here to help in the harvest, 50 per cent of whom were sent back because they found the work too hard.—Charlotte-town Guardian.

DISTRICT G.O.C.'S GET DIRECTIVE FROM MINISTER

Ottawa, Nov. 14 (CP).—Packing in brief cases a directive to tackle recruiting of Home Defense troops with urgency but with understanding, commanding officers from military districts and commands throughout Canada back to their posts tonight after a one-day conference presided over by Defense Minister McNaughton.

No announcement was issued after the meeting, but reliable sources said Gen. McNaughton outlined his recruiting plans, incorporated suggestions from the officers and then, stressing the need for "immediate action," adjourned the session.

Most of the officers at the conference had served under the Minister at one time or another when he was a field commander overseas.

Some of them expressed optimism about recruiting possibilities and others, after expressing the view the voluntary system had been "milked dry," offered to try Gen. McNaughton's announced principle that "you cannot drive men of spirit, but you can encourage and lead them," it was learned.

Gen. McNaughton was said to have urged the officers to approach the problem with a new understanding, ensure there was no coercion or bullying and seek to put before the Home Defense Army the need to assume their honorable obligation of service.

It was understood one commander, after being most outspoken in expressing doubts about the success of continuation of the voluntary system, finally agreed to give it another chance.

Several other officers were said to be of the same opinion and one of these said after the conference the consensus was that the voluntary system had a 60-40 chance of success.

During the day Defense Headquarters issued a statement on the disposition of Canadian forces overseas which explained the integration of Allied arms and stressed that despite the policy of interchange, formations were assured of their own reinforcements, supplies and equipment.

Text of Statement

The statement added: "In Canadian units, for example, all the personnel are Canadian and reinforcements are provided by Canadians through Canadian Reinforcement Depots in the theatres. These in turn are backed up by the Canadian Reinforcement Units in England."

No reason was given for issuance of the statement other than the comment that press reports from Europe and Defense Headquarters announcements had indicated the presence within Canadian formations portions of British, United States and other Allied armies. The same source had stated Canadian forces have served under Allied command.

Follows Critical Comment

Issuance of the statement follows the appearance in some Canadian newspapers of stories and cartoons in which the 1st Canadian Army has been dubbed "Clerger's International Brigade"—because of its United Nations complexion. It also follows stories in which the efforts of British, American and other Allied forces with the 1st Army and have been recorded.

The statement said: "It is perhaps not so well known that the 1st Canadian Army Commander by Lt.-Gen. H. D. C. Crerar, has not a fixed composition and the number of Corps and of Divisions of which it may be composed varies from time to time in relation to the task in hand. When operations call for a concentration of strength the additional strength placed at the disposal of an army commander is drawn from neighboring armies. Explains Unit Switches

"This explains why the 1st Canadian Army may have under its command formations from any of our Allied armies and similarly explains why Canadian formations may in turn engage in operations under other than Canadian command."

The statement referred to the Canadian Corps in Italy serving with the British 8th Army, commenting that "its place in the Canadian Army in Northwest Europe is filled by a similar formation from Allied armies." The Corps in Italy and the Canadian Corps with the 1st Army "constitute the Canadian Army Overseas."

The statement concluded: "The ability to concentrate and integrate their force where and when required demonstrates the high degree of training, planning, standardization of weapons and equipment and co-operative organization which has been achieved by the forces of the United Nations."

Check Draft Eligibles

A check of men reported by their employers as being in doubtful standing under call-up regulations has resulted in 8,343 men not in good standing being located. Arthur MacNamara, Director of National Selective Service reports.

By an Order-in-Council issued early this year employers were required to check the documents of all male employees and report those who had apparently failed to comply with the requirements. A total of 41,344 doubtful cases were reported and have been checked.

It now is necessary for an employer to report, within seven days of engagement, on any new male employee who fails to furnish documents proving he has complied with mobilization regulations.

ASK DRAFTEES GO OVERSEAS

Chatham, Nov. 14 (Special).—Chatham Branch 28 of the Canadian Legion today forwarded the resolution to Prime Minister Kitchener demanding that his Government immediately invoke powers vested in it by the 1942 plebiscite on overseas conscription and send conscripts overseas as reinforcements for the active army.

En route, the communication was joined by a similar resolution from Chatham City Council which was passed at last night's council meeting with no opposition, but with two aldermen failing to vote.

The Legionnaires' resolution pointed out the volunteer system had apparently failed and the reinforcement pool is greatly depleted. It stated the Government had been given an overwhelming authority to send conscripts overseas for active duty.

The Chatham Legion, which has on its roster over 500 men including 150 from the present conflict are reported by Secretary Don Rawlings as being 100 per cent in favor of sending draftees overseas at once.

Fort Erie, Nov. 14 (Special).—Branch 71, one of the most active Legion groups in Ontario, today forwarded a strong resolution to the Dominion Command, Ottawa, supporting that body to the hilt in its demand for adequate reinforcements for the overseas forces. President Bert B. Hyde, a veteran of the first Great War, is releasing a copy of the resolution emphasizing that "there are no strings attached. We desire to make our position clear we are wholeheartedly behind our Dominion Command in this respect."

Put Pressure on M.P.'s Regarding Draft Policy, Veterans' Groups Urge

The storm of protest against the Government's failure to send members of the Home Defense Army overseas increased last night when officials of three veterans' organizations appealed to their members to join with other organizations in urging members of Parliament to "back up the boys overseas."

The Canadian Corps Association asked members to show "emphatic approval" of the stand of former Defense Minister J. L. Ralston by sending messages to members of Parliament; the Canadian Legion was asked to obtain unequivocal answers from members from Ontario to questions as to their position regarding sending the draftees overseas, and the Second World War Veterans of Canada, from Hamilton, declared Government assurances that the voluntary system of supplying reinforcements "does not carry a great deal of conviction."

With Parliament meeting Nov. 22, G. Fay Davies, president of the Canadian Corps Association declared: "It is apparent that the time has come for all Canadians to exert their democratic right to be heard in the House of Commons through their elected representatives."

Capt. Tom Magladery, president of the Legion, asked the 300 branches in Ontario to interview local members of Parliament to ask: "Are you in favor of immediately making available for overseas reinforcements the draftees called up for home defense?" and "Will you pledge yourself to support this policy and to demand a recorded vote in Parliament?"

Of Urgent Importance

"This matter is of urgent national importance. Let nothing interfere with immediate action," he urged. "The special session of Parliament called for Nov. 22 is of vital importance as it will determine whether or not our hard-pressed men overseas will receive the necessary reinforcements without delay. Dominion Command of the Legion has unequivocally demanded that the draftees be made available immediately for this purpose. The report of Col. Ralston emphasized the acute need and every day's delay means added casualties."

"The Government's policy, as so far indicated, means taking chances with the lives of our soldiers, but at this special session it will be up to the individual members of Parliament to decide the issue. In the event of a vote of confidence on the Government's present policy, it is of utmost importance that Ontario members of every party stand together and back our men overseas. I therefore call upon every branch of the Legion in Ontario immediately to approach its local member and put to him the questions for an unequivocal answer." He further asked "that you forthwith call upon all loyal citizens and organizations in your district to wire or write your member of Parliament, demanding their support on this question."

Quotes from Statement

Two extracts from Col. Ralston's recent statement, said the Canadian Corps Association, "will arouse every veteran and every patriotic citizen in Canada." They were: "I considered that if we were to be fair to our men overseas, we could not afford to back them with every resource at our disposal. It seems to the Canadian Corps Association that every citizen in Canada should, therefore, back up our former Minister of National Defense."

"I have been instructed by the Dominion Council to send a message to every Provincial Command and to every unit of the association to urge each member to inform his Federal representative on Nov. 22, by letter or by telegram, that Col. Ralston's stand should have emphatic approval. It is the opinion of our association that this action should spread throughout all other patriotic organizations and to every citizen in Canada. We urge all organizations and citizens in Canada to contact their Federal representatives."

F. J. Smith, Hamilton, commander of the second World War Veterans, in a letter to all members of the association declared: "It is surprising that Gen. McNaughton, who went overseas in 1939 with an army composed entirely of volunteers, should give tacit and public approval of these mythical stories by accepting the portfolio of Minister of National Defense and in this regard Col. Ralston's resignation is no more impressive than the General's appointment, as he was a Cabinet Minister since the beginning of the war."

"In any case, the need for reinforcements must surely have been evident some time ago or are we to believe that the notice of the shortage coincided with the colonel's visit to the front, because, if so, it is an implied reflection on the existing High Command."

"To enlarge on the question of preference for the voluntary system, we of this organization would like to point out that the men who enlisted in 1939 and 1940 are not eligible for rehabilitation benefits on the same terms as those who enlisted later unless, of course, they are fortunate enough to be on active service at the present or were discharged subsequent to June 30, 1941. Also, the comparative scales of pay do not support the claim that the voluntary system is preferred, nor does the niggardly clothing allowance of \$35 granted the 1939-40 men, compare with the existing award of \$100."

"In conclusion, the Government's assurance of preference for the voluntary system would be much more convincing if the rehabilitation benefits were equalized on a retroactive basis."

"The Government's policy, as so far indicated, means taking chances with the lives of our soldiers, but at this special session it will be up to the individual members of Parliament to decide the issue. In the event of a vote of confidence on the Government's present policy, it is of utmost importance that Ontario members of every party stand together and back our men overseas. I therefore call upon every branch of the Legion in Ontario immediately to approach its local member and put to him the questions for an unequivocal answer."

Send Out Circulars

Ottawa, Nov. 15 (CP).—The Dominion Command of the Canadian Legion announced today it is sending circulars to its 1,200 branches in an effort to gain public support for its demands for conscription.

The circular calls on the 215,000 Legion members to reassert the Legion stand on manpower.

The circular says:

"The calling of Parliament presents an opportunity for the people of Canada to impress upon our legislators and the Government their desire that the fullest possible measure of support shall be sent to our fighting men overseas without delay and that the voluntary method of securing reinforcements having now reached the limit of its possibilities, it should now be superseded by measures to conscript draftees as reinforcements."

"Disclosures within the last few days indicate that the matter is urgent and it now is the duty of Legion units to take action before Nov. 22 (the date for which the special session of Parliament is called) within their own fields to arouse public opinion in support of the measure we advocate."

Most 'Draft-Dodgers' From Quebec Province

By D'ARCY O'DONNELL

Ottawa, Nov. 15 (CP). — Royal Canadian Mounted Police, asked to locate 51,479 men who allegedly had failed to answer the military call-up notices during the year ended last March 31, found that only a small percentage of the men actually were "draft-dodgers," R.C.M.P. officials said today.

Only 6,142 prosecutions for failing to comply with call-up notices resulted from the search which has spread across the country, but centred mainly in Quebec and Ontario.

Of the 51,479 men the R.C.M.P. were asked to locate, 35,990 of them were in Quebec, 9,847 in Ontario, 4,233 in New Brunswick, 768 in Manitoba, 426 in Alberta, 114 in Saskatchewan, 48 in British Columbia, 22 in Nova Scotia, seven in Prince Edward Island and four in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

The cases of 36,199 men were concluded to the satisfaction of the R.C.M.P., and 15,280 still were under investigation when the annual report was prepared several months ago. Later, statistics were not available.

Many Not Notified

The officials said it was found in many cases that the men had not received their notices, that they already were in the services, or that they were dead.

In 3,849 cases it was found the men were not delinquents, but were serving in some capacity. A total of 24,792 cases were referred back to Selective Service. The bulk of these cases were those of men who complied with call-up regulations after being served their notice by the R.C.M.P.

The prosecutions were undertaken in cases where the men refused to comply with the regulations after being served a notice by the R.C.M.P. of the prosecutions undertaken, 5,419 ended in convictions and the balance were dismissed, awaiting trial or were withdrawn.

Only those convicted were con-

sidered "draft-dodgers in the full sense of the word," the officials said. Of the prosecution 3,792 were instituted in Quebec, 1,493 in Ontario, 353 in Manitoba, 202 in Alberta, 143 in New Brunswick, 98 in Saskatchewan, 38 in British Columbia, 17 in Nova Scotia, three in Prince Edward Island and three in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

Other Police Helped

Officials said the men they were asked to locate were those who could not be traced by Selective Service, by private agencies or by other police bodies. All told, 70,468 cases of alleged delinquents were handled by the R.C.M.P., but this total included cases in which assistance was given to other police forces. Of this total, 59,277 cases were concluded and 18,639 still were under investigation at March 31.

The difference in the total figures was accounted for by the fact that a number of cases were carried forward from the preceding year.

Even after the cases were screened by Selective Service and the agencies, the R.C.M.P. were given many which ended with the finding of the men already in the services.

In an effort to reduce the number of such cases the R.C.M.P. began sending out letters to men or the parents of men who allegedly failed to comply with call-up notices. The officials said the letters were courteous and it was found that men, who might have thrown away their call-up notice, replied to the R.C.M.P. letter giving information of their whereabouts. Parents replied to say their sons were in the services or dead or to indicate their whereabouts.

One Had Lost Leg

But despite all precautions the R.C.M.P. sometimes ran into embarrassing situations. In one case a man, reported to be delinquent, lost a leg at Dieppe and was sitting in a wheel-chair at home when the R.C.M.P. arrived with his call-up notice.

R.C.M.P. now were working in Selective Service offices in an attempt to cut down on the number of reported delinquents. The number of cases was on the decline before the R.C.M.P. moved in, and a further decline was expected. The move was made so that the police would have readily at hand any documents or correspondence that formerly were handled through the mails.

Hint McNaughton Favors Sending Draftees Overseas

By KENNETH C. CRAGG

OTTAWA, Nov. 15 (Staff).—Defense Minister McNaughton, committed to the voluntary enlistment plan when he entered Cabinet two weeks ago, according to authoritative sources, has been forced by the hard facts of the army reinforcement position

to reverse his policy and has advised Prime Minister King the draftees are needed overseas.

The reported development stands revealed in Mr. King's sudden decision to call Parliament, and there is a strongly held belief that members will be advised in detail of the situation in secret session and on the floor of Commons later will be directed into an independent vote.

The sudden call issued by the Prime Minister on Monday night, after a brief Cabinet meeting in which his Ministers were not advised of his plan, immediately raised a storm of rumor in the capital from which in time has emerged a fairly clear picture.

Magic Wand

As placed together in responsible quarters here, it is believed that both the Prime Minister and Gen. McNaughton thought that the latter's appointment would be the magic wand that would still the waters of criticism raised by the Government's refusal to act on Col. J. L. Ralston's recommendation to send draftees by compulsion overseas according to the Government's pledge.

But as the last two weeks has shown, it failed to stem the tide of public indignation. It is stressed repeatedly that Gen. McNaughton, who blamed the former Minister for his retirement, was talked into accepting the job without assessing the task he has to do and without taking into consideration the mood of the public.

The hostile reaction of servicemen, veterans, and of the public generally, to the Arnprior speech was his first indication of the public feeling on the question.

The second eye-opener came yesterday when Gen. McNaughton met the district officers commanding the 13 military districts in Canada to survey the reinforcement problem with them. He met them not as a superior officer, but as a civilian. He is said to have asked them for their candid opinions on the situation, and he got them.

Couldnt Be Hopeful

The meeting, it has been advised, was not acrimonious, but the DOC's told him frankly that he did not stand a chance of getting the needed reinforcements by the voluntary method.

Defense Minister McNaughton announced tonight:

"The purpose of the conference was to obtain from these commanders the latest views and to get the best picture of the situation generally in respect to the provision of reinforcements for overseas. Valuable information has been obtained and is being analyzed and studied. The results are a definite step forward toward the clarification of the situation.

"A careful review was made of home establishments with a view to the disbandment of those no longer required for training or for home defense in the light of the progress of the war.

"Progress in voluntary enlistments for the army from the public and from NRMA was considered, and the special difficulties in respect to the latter were under review.

"The conference now is concluded and the commanders are en route to their respective commands."

It is reported that the informa-

tion Gen. McNaughton has had from overseas since he took office has substantiated Col. Ralston's stand in Cabinet, and more.

All of these things, it is believed, Gen. McNaughton has reported to the Prime Minister and, in so doing, has reversed himself to the point that he has advised he does not think that the voluntary plan can meet the urgency and that there is no other way but the way of compulsion.

It is believed, therefore, that the House will meet in secret session, and that the Defense Minister will be called in to make a report. It is believed he will claim that he had thought the voluntary system could have been speeded up, but that from information he now has, he knows that he is wrong.

As a result of this report, Prime Minister King will release the Liberal members from their party obligation and will give them the right of a free and independent vote.

Showing Strain

One thing is certain: Gen. McNaughton, according to those who have been in close touch with him, is definitely showing the strain of office and his appearance reflects the situation in which he has been placed.

Support for the belief that Mr. King will follow the procedure with Parliament that is indicated above is seen in the sudden turn of the C.C.F. as indicated by the statement given yesterday in Edmonton by Mr. Coldwell.

Mr. Coldwell is said to have been kept informed by the powers that be, and yesterday he advocated a secret session and advised, "if it is shown that the need is there, we must use all means in our power to reinforce our men overseas." The statement was the first that the C.C.F. leader has given which did not predicate compulsion with the conscription of wealth.

It is asserted that, having freed his group, Mr. King, who is in the tightest political spot he has ever been in, will then appeal to Quebec members to fall in line because of the extreme gravity of the situation.

Confusion in Capital

The confusion that has snarled the capital over the coming House meeting has increased rather than lessened, and has given rise to such quaint pastimes as Parliamentarians interviewing correspondents to find out what is going on, and Cabinet Ministers admitting they know nothing about Mr. King's plans.

Among theories advanced overnight, culled from reports heard by the doorman, the official winder of the Peace Tower clock, a member of the Board of Trade, Toronto; three Liberals and a lone Progressive Conservative from an unidentified riding, were:

Mr. King will resign and ask Col. Ralston to form a Government; Col. Ralston will cross the floor of the House; Col. Ralston will not cross the floor of the House; the Government will pass the Order-in-Council to send draftees overseas, and Commons will be asked to endorse that action.

Members of Parliament began to arrive today for the session.

There was a stir of increased activity about the centre block with the arrival of Speaker J. A. Glen, by plane, and some eight or 10 private members. It is expected a majority of the members will reach Ottawa during the week-end.

Three Cabinet Ministers are absent from the city. Air Minister Power who recently underwent an operation in Quebec City is expected back Monday. Munitions Minister Howe, attending the international air conference in Chicago, is expected back within a few days. Labor Minister Mitchell is in Edmonton on a western speaking tour, but it is presumed he will cut his trip short to arrive back in Ottawa in time for the session.

Uncertainty as to how long the session will last complicates arrangements which have to be made for accommodation of the members. It is not expected the Parliamentary restaurant will be opened, but consideration is being given to opening the cafeteria.

CONSCRIPTION MERE POLITICS, HOWE ASSERTS

By FRANK FLAHERTY

Chicago, Nov. 15 (CP).—Conscription for overseas service in Canada is "rather a political question than a question of meeting an urgent need," Reconstruction Minister C. D. Howe said today in a luncheon address before the Canadian Club of Chicago.

The Minister, who heads the Canadian delegation at the International Civil Aviation conference, spoke without notes and said he had seen all the relevant reports and figures on army reinforcements but, for security reasons, could not give them.

He said he was not expressing any personal opinion on the issue, but on the basis of the full information, he did "not believe it is a question of meeting an overwhelming need." He spoke, he said, for the purpose of giving former Canadians now living in Chicago some of the background on the situation.

The speech was notable as one of the first utterances by a Minister, other than Prime Minister Mackenzie King, Defense Minister McNaughton and former Defense Minister Ralston since Col. Ralston's resignation from the Cabinet.

Standing Per Capita

Canada, said Mr. Howe, had as high a proportion of its population enlisted in the forces as practically any Allied country with the exception of the United Kingdom.

The Government at the start of the war followed the traditional voluntary system, but in 1940 supplemented it with compulsory service within Canada. Under compulsory service some 200,000 men had been drafted into the forces and at various times men had been drafted to the coal mines and other activities.

Of the 200,000 men called up for the army all but about 60,000 had volunteered for service anywhere.

"These 60,000 men, however, have become a great political issue in Canada and an issue that will likely become greater as time goes on."

There had been a difference of opinion in the Government about it and there was a great division of opinion in the country which would likely become more marked. Those in "the seat of government" had to take account of what happened in the first Great War.

Then conscription was introduced late in the war, was followed by bloodshed and "the number of members secured for the armed forces was exceedingly small in comparison to the commotion in Canada."

The Government had also to consider other aspects of the war effort, including the munitions program. There was an over-all shortage of ammunition and Canadian industry played a great role in keeping the stream of munitions going forward.

"The Government must weigh any probable interruption of production which would follow the enforcement of conscription," he said.

Nothing in Lease-Lend

In Chicago, said Mr. Howe, he had met an old friend and a prominent business man who thought Canada was a recipient of Lease-Lend. Canada has never taken a dollar in Lease-Lend from the United States or any other country. Canada had its own Lease-Lend system under which two gifts of \$1,000,000,000 each had been made and a third of \$800,000,000 now was being expended.

Considering the relative populations and economic resources of the two countries it would be found that Canada's aid to co-belligerents was on a par with that of the United States.

During the five years of war Canada had been fairly successful in maintaining a stable economy. The cost of living had been controlled.

"I am confident," he said, "that we will emerge from the war with an economy not too greatly inflated, with an expanded industry and with a people who have all shared in the

Report Canadians Out of Front Lines

London, Nov. 15 (CP).—Indications are that most of the Canadian units in Western Europe and in Italy now are out of the line, resting in preparation for new tasks.

Since Polish forces of the 1st Canadian Army eliminated the last German pocket south of the Maas (Meuse) River in Southwest Holland on Nov. 9, there have been no reports of activity by Lt.-Gen. Crerar's forces.

The last report of Canadian in Italy was in an Adriatic front despatch Nov. 10, which reported the capture of Germans in a patrol skirmish in the area of San Stefano.

Overseas Duty For NRMA Urged

Oakville, Nov. 15 (Special).—Oakville Board of Education has passed a resolution asking that the Home Defense Army be sent overseas as reinforcements as "a state of emergency exists." The resolution reads: "As a state of emergency in providing reinforcements for our men overseas jeopardizes lives of our fighting forces and our national honor, and as reserves of trained volunteers are inadequate to meet requirements, and as the Home Defense Army has trained personnel which could immediately be available, it is resolved that Oakville Board of Education urges the Government to make such personnel available for reinforcing forces now fighting overseas."

Minister
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Army Issue Too Serious For Playing of Politics; Coldwell Demands Facts

Edmonton, Nov. 15 (CP).—The proper course at the session of the House of Commons, called for Nov. 22, would be for members to demand all information concerning overseas reinforcements from the Government and from Col. J. L. Ralston, who resigned this month as Defense Minister, M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. Leader, said last night.

"Ninety-nine per cent of the people discussing this question of reinforcements have no information upon which to base their judgment," he said at a public meeting. Recently returned from a tour of French and Belgian battle zones, Mr. Coldwell said he himself did not have latest information on the question.

"This matter is too serious for politicians to play politics with. If necessary, Parliament should meet in secret session and every available document should be produced."

Politicians "see in the issue a golden opportunity to wrap themselves in the flag, get into power as the war closes, and sell Canada down the river for five years."

The C.C.F.'s Party's attitude to the reinforcement question will be determined by disclosures of the Parliamentary sitting this month. "Our boys are over there and we will see to it that those boys will get all the support they need."

Attacks Bracken Party

Welland, Nov. 15 (CP).—David Lewis, national secretary of the C.C.F., speaking at a public meeting here, charged the Progressive Conservative party with "making a lot of political noise" about the problem of reinforcements. He said the Progressive Conservative party "deliberately spread false information" for political purposes.

Asked what stand the C.C.F. would take in regard to reinforcements for the Canadian Army, Mr. Lewis said he could not speak for the party. He added his personal opinion was that the party would support action to make draftees available as reinforcements if it were proven necessary.

Asks Mitchell To Act

A resolution passed unanimously by the Welland branch of the Canadian Legion protested against Dominion Government's "failure to send draftees overseas as reinforcements."

The resolution called on Labor Minister Mitchell, Liberal member of Parliament, for Welland, to do all in his power to have the home defense army made available as reinforcements for overseas troops.

effort, either in the forces or in action.

must admit the people are getting a bit tired. The strain and the pressure is beginning to tell but I tell you that as long as there is the war effort of Canada will slacken."

Canadian effort would continue concentrated on the European front until the job was done there when the European war is finished, our troops our Navy and our force will transfer to the Pacific to finish up that job."

Was Surprised

Ottawa, Nov. 15 (Staff).—The denial of former Defense Minister Ralston's estimation of reinforcement requirements by Reconstruction Minister Howe in his Chicago speech was received with surprise in Ottawa with expressions of disbelief and admitted consternation.

Government members refused to comment on the report that Mr. Ralston said the issue was "rather a technical question than a question meeting an urgent need." They insisted on the ground that the report must be verified; they suggested that Mr. Howe must have been misquoted.

In discussion of the Howe reference, it was pointed out that Prime Minister King himself, in his radio broadcast a week ago tonight, announced there was an urgency in the matter. He said that Col. Ralston's resignation to the Government "disclosed a serious problem which had to be faced."

Canada Faces a Crisis—and Why

From the Evangelical Christian (Current Issue)

Canada faces a crisis today—the greatest, perhaps, in her history. It has been brought about, as so many similar crises have been brought about in these last few years, by compromise with truth and right. Governments have a responsibility to the people who placed them in power. That at least is so in democratic countries. They are there to give expression to the will of the people.

A few years ago there was a plebiscite of the people of Canada taken on the subject of conscription, and by an overwhelming majority the people of Canada voted "Yes," which authorized the Government to go ahead. Eight Provinces voted this way. One, and one only, the Province of Quebec, voted "No"—and that vote has up until the present moment prevailed. Because Quebec is traditionally Liberal, and because the lust of power has proved too much for it, the Government of Mr. King has consistently refused to obey the expressed will of the people.

The crisis in the present instance

has been precipitated by the resignation of Mr. Ralston as Minister of National Defense. Returning from a trip to the battle areas, Mr. Ralston saw the dire need for reinforcements for the men, and urged Mr. King to make good his promise to the people that conscription would be imposed when necessary. But because Quebec says "No" the Prime Minister refuses to fulfill his obligation to the people of Canada.

Mr. Ralston resigned, preferring the approval of a good conscience rather than the sacrifice of honor on the altar of political expediency. He at least delivered his soul. In the meantime, Canada's vast Zombian army, mostly from Quebec, continues to pick tobacco and apples while reinforcements languish and young men inadequately trained die in foxholes and in mud. But human life is cheap these days. And what does it matter if a few more young men from eight Provinces of Canada die for human freedom if only Quebec is not offended and the King Government can remain in power?

A Soldier Writes Home

'Breaking Up Essential Units To Reinforce the Infantry'

Below is an excerpt from a letter from overseas written by a Canadian Army officer wounded in Holland, to a friend. For the protection of the officer his name is not being published.

"Mail here is like the grapefruit, it comes in bunches; yesterday I had two letters from you. Thanks for the kind thought re the Digest."

"I am getting along fine, have a 'walking cast' on my leg now, and so am slightly mobile. Expecting to be evacuated to U.K. any day. I fear the war is over for me. Looks as if six months more would finish

the European end of it, although Jerry fought fiercely here."

"Haven't heard of Connie Smythe's remarks until a few days ago, when some newspapers came in. Glad to hear some one spoke up, although when Ralston was here a couple of weeks ago he heard plenty from every one on the same subject. The situation here is worse than Smythe outlined, absolutely criminal, breaking up essential units to reinforce the infantry. In some cases even with this method of digging up men, company strengths are only 40 to 50 men, and these men know nothing of infantry work, probably haven't fired a Bren gun at all. No wonder our casualties are terrific."

Figures Show How Provinces Voted on Plebiscite in 1942

OTTAWA, Nov. 15 (CP).—This is how the vote stood in 1942 on giving the Government power to send draftees overseas if necessary:

	Yes	No
Ontario	1,217,604	235,350
Quebec	376,188	993,663
Nova Scotia	120,382	33,043
New Brunswick	105,602	45,940
Prince Edward Island	23,660	4,481
Manitoba	221,198	55,735
British Columbia	254,301	63,314
Saskatchewan	188,116	74,371
Alberta	186,172	75,427
Yukon Territory	860	317
Yellowknife Administration District	313	120
Service vote	251,118	60,885
Total	2,945,514	1,643,006

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1944.

In Summoning the House of Commons into session Prime Minister King has stood their call aside for still another nine days. If the purpose is to further debate an renegotiate their need, the course of the House is clear. It need know no more than the facts on which that call is based. The help our troops need is here. For men of conscience there is nothing that can stand in the way of it going to them. The House of Commons can acknowledge no loyalty but the loyalty of Canada to those young men who are spilling their blood so that the institution of popular government, the rule of the majority, might pre-

But this would not be in keeping with the play of the C.C.F. for the votes of isolationists—those who hate Britain and those in Quebec who have little or no interest in the war. Mr. Coldwell says the facts are not clear. Yet his own national secretary sets himself up as an expert, and says he agrees with Mr. King that the training of the men who are going into the line is good. Good, Mr. Lewis says, despite the fact

What a sorry lot!

All of us know the answer. Mr. King leaves the Canadian Army overseas without reinforcements because Quebec voted "No" in the plebiscite. That is the heart of this trouble. Mr. King's eye is on Quebec; his ear attuned to Quebec. From that part of Canada alone, with 65 potential Liberal votes in Parliament, he takes his inspiration.

With virtually every repu
newspaper in Canada, outside
Quebec, condemning his policy
only necessary for each loy
and woman to vote at the ne
tion to ensure that Mr. K
not muster a corporal's
the next Parliament.

Toronto. A. A.

As for Parliament, summoned now by Mr. King as a desperate tactic of evasion, the case before it will be clear. From the thinning lines of our battle-scarred, weary, heroic troops across the seas comes a signal for help. That help is here. It is for Parliament to say that that help will be sent, that not party fortunes nor political manoeuvring, nor the prestige of personalities, can stand athwart a sacred duty of this land. Not since the birth of this nation has Parliament been given greater opportunity to vindicate its independence and power—to show that it is the voice and heart of our people.



Reinforcement Issue Just Politics Howe Tells Audience in Chicago

Chicago, November 15.—(P)—Conscription for overseas service in Canada is "rather a political question than a question of meeting an urgent need," Reconstruction Minister C. D. Howe said today in a luncheon address before the Canadian Club of Chicago.

The minister, who heads the Canadian delegation at the international civil aviation conference, spoke without notes and said he had seen all the relevant reports and figures on army reinforcements but, for security reasons, could not give them.

He said he was not expressing any personal opinion on the issue but on the basis of the full information, he did "not believe it is a question of meeting an overwhelming need." He spoke, he said, for the purpose of giving former Canadians now living in Chicago some of the background on the situation.

The speech was notable as one of the first utterances by a minister, other than Prime Minister Mackenzie King, Defence Minister McNaughton and former Defence Minister Ralston since Col. Ralston's resignation from the cabinet.

Canada, said Mr. Howe, had as high a proportion of its population enlisted in the forces as practically any Allied country with the exception of the United Kingdom.

The government at the start of the war followed the traditional voluntary system but in 1940 supplemented it with compulsory service within Canada. Under compulsory service some 200,000 men had been drafted into the forces and at various times men had been drafted to the coal mines and other activities.

Of the 200,000 men called up for the Army all but about 60,000 had volunteered for service anywhere.

"Considering that over 1,000,000 men have been in the armed forces at one time or another that 60,000 doesn't seem like a very large percentage," he said.

"These 60,000 men, however, have become a great political issue in Canada and an issue that will like-

ly become greater as time goes on."

There had been a difference of opinion in the government about it and there was a great division of opinion in the country which would likely become more marked. Those in "the seat of government" had to take account of what happened in the Great War.

Then conscription was introduced late in the war, was followed by bloodshed and "the number of members secured for the armed forces was exceedingly small in comparison to the commotion in Canada."

The government had also to consider other aspects of the war effort, including the munitions program. There was an over-all shortage of ammunition and Canadian industry played a great role in keeping the stream of munitions going forward.

"The government must weigh any probable interruption of production which would follow the enforcement of conscription," he said.

The prominent mention accorded Canada at the air conference, was due to the fact that Canadians had been studying the aviation problem for some time and considered a solution of the greatest importance, he said. Airways might well become a source of international friction unless a well-defined plan was worked out.

In Chicago, said Mr. Howe, he had met an old friend and a prominent business man who thought Canada was a recipient of lease-lend. Canada has never taken a dollar in lease-lend from the United States or any other country. Canada had its own lease-lend system under which two gifts of \$1,000,000 each had been made and a third of \$800,000,000 now was being expended.

Considering the relative populations and economic resources of the two countries he said it would be found that Canada's aid to co-belligerents was on a par with that of the United States.

P.C. HEADS BACK BRACKEN STAND

National Committee Favors Conscription for Overseas

Winnipeg, November 15. — (P) — The National Council of the Progressive Conservative party concluded today a three-day conference during which, a statement issued tonight said, it endorsed a declaration made earlier this week by party leader John Bracken that the home defence army should be made available immediately to reinforce the country's army overseas.

The statement said that uppermost in the discussions was the "present national crisis brought about by the government's inability to decide upon a policy that will meet the urgent reinforcements situation."

The committee dealt with matters of organization and policy and will be reconvened in Ottawa or Montreal December 4.

S. E. Stewart of Smiths Falls, Ont., president of the Young Progressive Conservative Association in the organization of Young Progressive Conservative groups in a report said young people's organizations were being "strongly reinforced" in every province and particularly by the relatives and wives of men overseas.

Gordon

C.O.'S ADVISE McNAUGHTON COMPULSION MUST BE USED TO BACK FRONT-LINE TROOPS

SITUATION CHANGES

Defence Minister Reported to
Tell King His Opinion Alters

UP TO PRIME MINISTER

McNaughton Said to Accept
Stand of Chiefs of Military
Districts

By F. C. MEARS.

(Gazette Resident Correspondent.)
Ottawa, November 16.—Another sensational development in the cabinet crisis over conscription as a means of adequately reinforcing the Canadian infantry in the Low Countries and in Italy came to light when it was learned that most of the heads of military districts across the country, who for two days have been reporting to Defence Minister A. G. L. McNaughton, made it plain to him that compulsion would have to be used if enough draftees were to be sent across the ocean.

Linked with this startling agreement amongst these at the head of the military districts and who have first hand and the latest information on recruiting prospects, is the well authenticated story that those who were associated with Col. J. L. Ralston, former Defence Minister, in the preparation of his case, which was rejected by Prime Minister King, are sticking to their guns, believe the statistical case they compiled holds true.

It was reported elsewhere tonight that the newly named Defence Minister, Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, has told Mr. King of what was reported to him by the military heads in the country and that he himself has changed his mind about the adequacy of the present voluntary system.

Whether or not Gen. McNaughton has advised Mr. King that the draftees must be sent overseas, whether they volunteer or whether they wait to be compelled cannot be checked but it is learned on reliable authority that the report he has transmitted to the Prime Minister of what he learned from the military leaders across the Dominion would leave no alternative but to advise of invoking the conscription law.

ONE COURSE OPEN.

This will make a tremendous difference in what happens at next week's meeting of the House, for if the necessity for conscription has been reported to Gen. McNaughton the single and central condition to asking Parliament to again approve conscription's adoption has been supplied and there is no other course left open to the Prime Minister.

Certainly the military problem has been solved or, at least, has been answered. It now remains for Mr. King to decide on the political steps. There is no reason to suppose that he will quickly or easily recede from his anti-conscription position, particularly because of his irrevocable commitments to the province of Quebec.

It has been argued here today that even if all the military experts agree that nothing short of conscription will insure prompt and adequate reinforcement overseas, the Prime Minister will still balk at taking the logical step, that he will say such move would irreparably estrange Quebec from the Dominion, and that this is too high a price to pay for the needed reinforcements.

But, on the other side of the picture, it is hardly conceivable that he would lightly disregard a report to him by a new Defence Minister, especially as Gen. McNaughton was brought in on the belief he could find an escape from a way around conscription. This report from the military chiefs in the field must have the effect of placing the King administration solidly on the spot, politically.

And all these developments come on a day during which Prime Minister Winston Churchill pictured to the British House of Commons the hard and long struggle still ahead of the Allied armies in Europe, and during which it was announced 200 Canadian soldiers from Italy would be brought home for Christmas. But more important than these was the disclosure from the western front that the Canadian troops, both

in the Low Countries and in Italy, were a few days ago pulled out of the line for a rest, and it is fairly evident from recent disclosures here that there are not enough sufficiently trained men to fill all their places, so that Canada's place to a large extent will be taken by troops of other nations.

SYSTEM SAID FAILURE.

The most important feature of today's developments here is further and incontestable testimony from the military chiefs that the voluntary system has finally and completely failed to produce the desired results at a critical stage of the war, that there is no possibility now of getting enough men by the voluntary system to meet the demand.

The government has repeatedly declared in the past two years—not only Col. Ralston and the other defence ministers, but the Prime Minister and Col. Colin Gibson and Labor Minister Humphrey Mitchell and others—that if the voluntary system was shown to be ineffective the compulsory method would have to be adopted to enable Canada to do her fair share in the war.

The belief expressed in different quarters in the past two days that Mr. King would make a last ditch fight against conscription was based on the assumption that the necessity for such a step had not been established, and that even if such necessity were proved the Prime Minister would insist national disruption was too high a price to pay for an adequately reinforced Canadian infantry overseas.

But this belief was expressed before it was known what were the views of the military chiefs from the various districts, before it was known that these views exhibited a surprising unanimity and tenacity. Gen. McNaughton has been deeply impressed by their reports and Mr. King will have extreme difficulty in brushing aside the report of his newly named Defence Minister, whether or not the Defence Minister himself goes the length of recommending or advising conscription.

These reports will be known to Parliament and are bound to have an important effect on the trend of next week's debate, a debate which is expected to consume at least a week, although House officers are not making any special preparations to accommodate the House members. There will be no parliamentary restaurant and other facilities are to be limited.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Veterans' Criticism

Sir,—Governmental assurances that the voluntary system of supplying reinforcements to the Canadian Army Overseas is preferable to other methods does not carry a great deal of conviction.

It is surprising that Gen. McNaughton, who went overseas in 1939 with an army composed entirely of volunteers, should give tacitly and public approval of these mythical stories by accepting the portfolio of Minister of National Defence, and in this regard Col. Ralston's resignation is no more impressive than the General's appointment, as he was a Cabinet Minister since the beginning of the war.

In any case the need for reinforcements must surely have been evident some time ago, or are we to believe that the notice of the shortage coincided with the Colonel's visit to the front because, if so, it is an implied reflection on the existing high command.

To enlarge on the question of preference for the voluntary system, we of this organization would like to point out that men who enlisted in 1939 and 1940 are not eligible for rehabilitation benefits on the same terms as those who enlisted later unless, of course, they are fortunate enough to be on active service at the present or were discharged subsequent to June 30th, 1941. Also, the comparative scales of pay do not support the claim that the voluntary system is preferred, nor does the niggardly clothing allowance of \$35.00, granted the 1939-40 men, compare with the existing award of \$100.00.

In conclusion, the Government's assurance of preference for the voluntary system would be much more convincing if the rehabilitation benefits were equalized on a retroactive basis.

F. J. SMITH,

Commander,
Second World War Veterans
of Canada,

Hamilton, November 13.

Wake Up, Canadians!

Sir,—We have listened to the radio address of Mr. Mackenzie King. We have read of General McNaughton's plans for needed reinforcements. We have read Mr. Ralston's statement. We still claim to be a democracy—let's be democratic!

Let every thinking English and French Canadian unite in demanding immediate support for our troops in demanding that those who have given their lives for us have not made that supreme sacrifice in vain. Let party politics be forgotten. Let every club, every organization, every man and woman, study Mr. King's evasive, contradictory and weak statement; study the implications of General McNaughton's wishful thinking. Surely, after study, every Canadian

will demand action and action now.

Wake up, Canadians!

E. MEREDITH HODGSON,
Montreal, November 13.

Asks Five Questions

Sir,—I would like to ask Prime Minister King the following questions through the medium of your newspaper:

1. Is it a democratic principle to flout the will of the vast majority of the people?
2. Is it a democratic principle to try and mislead the people by untruthful propaganda?
3. Is it a democratic principle to put party politics ahead of human lives and possible slavery?
4. Is your cabinet of ministers one hundred per cent. in accord with your views on the "Zombie" army?
5. Are the lives of our soldiers, sailors, and airmen so cheap that the possible loss of sectional support in politics outweighs our fighting men's sacrifice?

If the answer to the above is "yes," as our Government's actions indicate, we, the people, should and will hang our heads in shame for electing to office "men" of this calibre.

GEORGE A. PATTON.

Sutton, Que., November 11.

"All Members Must Speak!"

Sir,—Your editorial was appropriate and timely, "Individual members must speak out." Not only cabinet members, but all Members of Parliament.

Let every mother, father, wife, sister—with or without relatives in the service—also speak out. Tell them all to bombard their local M.P., at his home and at his Ottawa office, so that the M.P., understands clearly, without fear of contradiction, that the electors expect their Member to present the elector's wishes on this issue. Party lines have no place in this crisis.

Then, let us have the "Ayes" and the "Nays" of the vote afterwards. Let us remember that all considerations must be secondary to the main issue of immediate and continuous supply of trained reinforcements to our men overseas. This must be preponderantly assured.

May I say that your forthright stand has made a lot of friends for your paper. It has also recovered lost friends. Make sure that your policy continues to be forthright, independent in thought and action, without any axes to grind. Make sure that you understand, interpret and express the views of the younger people, particularly those returning from overseas. Their battles will not be finished when they leave the theatre of war. What a grand opportunity a good newspaper has! Do not abuse the power nor betray the trust.

CYRIL G. SAVAGE.

Westmount, November 14.

The Gazette

FOUNDED JUNE 3, 1778

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Success is inwardly experienced not by the power it brings but by its tranquility.

—Anon.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16.

NO TIME FOR SECRET SESSION.

The suggestion already being put forward in some quarters that next week's session of the House of Commons, called to debate the reinforcement controversy, be held in secret ought to be nailed down before it gains further circulation. There is not the slightest reason why these meetings of the Commons should be held behind closed doors. There is nothing that can be said of the Canadian Army situation that the enemy does not already know. Military security cannot possibly be claimed as a reason for holding the session in private.

On the contrary there is every reason for opening wide the doors of information. The House has been called "in the public interest." The public interest is not likely to be served if the discussion on the issue that has shaken it so deeply takes place in secret or if a vote is taken on an undisclosed motion. The nation is confronted with the greatest issue, apart from the declaration of war itself, that the conflict has imposed on it. It is unthinkable that the people should not be taken into the Government's confidence.

The responsibility the lawmakers must face is the immediate reinforcement of Canadian troops overseas. That is the greatest consideration before the country; all else must take second place. If reinforcements are sent and in time the country will not pry too closely into the political expedients by which they were produced, for the national honor and the needs of the men in the field transcend all political considerations.

Yet it may be well to consider the political solution that may appeal to the Government. The Prime Minister is placed in an extremely difficult position; being a man of much political acumen there is no doubt that he will try with considerable skill to emerge in the best possible manner.

Instead of asking for a vote of confidence it may be that he would prefer to place the issue freely before the House, relieving the members of his party from party responsibilities, and contenting himself with a vote on the issue after a free-for-all debate. If the result of such a vote were a demand for the immediate transfer overseas of the trained draftees, Mr. King, who has opposed compulsion throughout, would thereby evade much of the responsibility for the change in policy. He would maintain his party intact and to those in the country who are opposed to compulsion he could truthfully reply that he had only followed the wishes of the Commons.

Such a vote in the House to send the draftees overseas would in reality be a vote of censure on Mr. King and his Cabinet for dismissing Col. Ralston, appointing Gen. McNaughton and refusing to resort to compulsion before Parliament was called. If under these circumstances he should feel that he could remain in power after having been censured by the House, it would be one of the strangest procedures in the history of Parliamentary government.

This and other political tactics may be in the making now, and it is important that the country watch the manoeuvres in Ottawa with the closest attention. The responsibility for the present situation belongs to the Government and to no one else. It is a crisis that has been building up for a long time; many have seen it coming and have warned of its approach. It has not yet been settled, but in its settlement the Government must be made to accept its just share of responsibility.

MR. COLDWELL'S SLOW CONVERSION.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell, national leader of the C.C.F., has moved a cautious step further along the tortuous road he has followed in the slow, yet uncompleted conversion of his war policy. It is with reluctant tread that he has moved from pacifist and isolationist towards support of Canada's all-out participation in the war against fascist aggression. Even now, he has found a tempting bypath, up which to scurry for refuge and reconnaissance, before deciding on whether to make the final dash to an unreserved commitment.

The latest phase in his political emulation of a lethargic chameleon is his statement in Edmonton this week, favoring overseas service for draftees. "If the reinforcement situation is shown to demand this step." In the same breath as he boldly declaimed for using "all means in our power" to reinforce the troops in action, he qualified his stand with a sceptical "if it is shown the need is there." He further hobbled his pronouncement with the reservation that "it must all be predicated on the information given to the House (of Commons)."

Mr. Coldwell may reasonably be asked what further information or authority he needs beyond the first-hand finding of Col. the Hon. J. L. Ralston, as Defence Minister, that the overseas reinforcement pools are already seriously depleted. What greater conviction of "need" does Mr. Coldwell require on top of Col. Ralston's considered conviction that trained draftees must be sent overseas immediately, in addition to available trained volunteers, to avert an acute shortage of reinforcements by the turn of the year?

♦ ♦ ♦

However, perhaps one should be thankful for small favors, regardless of how capably they may be proffered and of what little advantage they may be at this late date. Certainly Mr. Coldwell's latest affirmation of policy represents quite a swing from the early war days when he and his party opposed the sending overseas of any Canadian armed forces, volunteer or otherwise; and

before the war when they opposed Canadian participation of any kind in war, no matter who the belligerents might be.

On the outbreak of war, Mr. Coldwell laid down his party's policy that Canada should be ready to "defend her own shores," but otherwise should extend only economic aid to Britain. National war measures "must not include conscription," he declared, and there must be no expeditionary force or other military participation overseas. Even in 1940 and 1941, Mr. Coldwell and his party associates either reiterated their disapproval of sending forces overseas or, by omission of any amending declaration, left their original policy to stand unaltered.

By early 1942 Mr. Coldwell had begun to veer around, in belated response to the tide of events abroad and public opinion at home. He publicly appealed for a "Yes" vote in the plebiscite, to free the Government's hands from any restrictive commitments on the means of raising men for military service. But when it came to a showdown on Bill 80, to give the Government power to implement the overwhelming "Yes" vote for which Mr. Coldwell had asked and impose overseas conscription when it became necessary, the C.C.F. veered back. The C.C.F. members voted against the bill on the ground that it should have also provided for "conscription of wealth."

♦ ♦ ♦

Mr. Coldwell has continued ever since to hold back from a full, unreserved commitment to a total war effort. On his return in October from his trip overseas, during which he visited the battle zone in France, he reported having soothingly assured Canadian soldiers who asked about the Home Defence Army that the C.C.F. favored sending "whatever support is necessary to win the war." But in an address here only two weeks ago he asserted that "we shall continue to demand total conscription of industry and wealth even if total conscription of men is ordered."

Now apparently he has dropped this beclouding reservation for the time being, though retaining a final anchor of "if necessary" borrowed from the Prime Minister. It will be interesting indeed to see where Mr. Coldwell will stand in the showdown which, it is to be hoped, will come from the meeting of the House of Commons next week. It will be even more interesting to see what ultimate phases of evolution his policy will reach by the time the war is won.

CHURCHILL ON MANPOWER.

In the third warning he has delivered in the space of a fortnight, Prime Minister Churchill once more declares that the fighting, which is extremely heavy, will certainly last for a good long time. New point is given to his latest declaration by the circumstance that it was occasioned by a request that men over 40 serving in "static" military stations be released from the British army. Mr. Churchill's refusal underlines the seriousness of the situation. It is of timely import to us in this country on the eve of the coming session of the Commons, at which Canada's manpower problem is to be debated.

Men in "static" stations in the British Isles have been under fire, as has the civilian population, for five years. They have not been in the front line, but they have fought off air attack and served under long-range artillery and rocket bombardment. The fact that they cannot be released at this stage of the war, even when they pass the age of 40, reveals how critical is the manpower situation in Britain.

When Mr. Churchill's questioner mentioned the "new facts" in the situation he probably had in mind that Britain no longer faces invasion, that the armies of the allies stand on the threshold of Germany, and that the end of the war is in sight. If that is so he had little confirmation from the Prime Minister. "The new fact that stares one in the face," Mr. Churchill told him, "is that extremely heavy fighting is continuing week by week and will certainly last for a good long time." Premier Churchill's words travel far. It is to be hoped that they will resound in Ottawa.

The French Press

Labor and Politics
(Press Information Bureau)

The most widely discussed subject has been during the last two weeks the advisability of the affiliation of labor unions to a political party. The press, including the organ of the Provincial Federation of Labor has declared itself categorically against such policy. **Montreal Martin** for the second time within a few days warns the employees of the danger involved in their union joining to the doubtful future of a political party.

"We have always considered that the affiliation of a labor organization to a political party was inherently dangerous and that such policy was completely against the best interests of the workers."

"The newly appointed Minister of Labor of Quebec, a worker himself, has just expressed a similar opinion, when he stated 'the mere fact of its affiliation to a political party constitutes, for a labor union, an indirect declaration of war to the other political parties'. How could it be otherwise? . . . It is false to pretend that the workers will be in a better position by giving their support to a political party. This party will be of no help if it is not in power—if it is, it must settle all the labor problems taking into account the general interest and, at the same time be just toward all labor unions. If it acts otherwise, it will not be a democratic government."

In **Le Droit**, Camille L'Heureux, in a thousand-word editorial, comments on the recent convention of the C.C.L. in Quebec City, where a furious exchange of words took place between the leftists and the C.C.F. supporters and concludes with this paragraph:

"Politics have always been an element of serious division among human beings. History proves it absolutely. The introduction of politics in its platform may cost the Canadian Congress of Labor a higher price than expected. The labor unions are, by nature, destined to protect the interests of workers. This should be the basis of unionism and, to achieve it, it is their duty to avoid any move which might compromise their primary object. That is why it is most important that they should keep away from active politics in order to devote all their energies to the advancement of these interests. That is what good sense teaches. Thus, by its political move, the C.C.L. is laying the foundation of a dark future."

Editorial writer Roger Duhamel reasons along the same lines in an

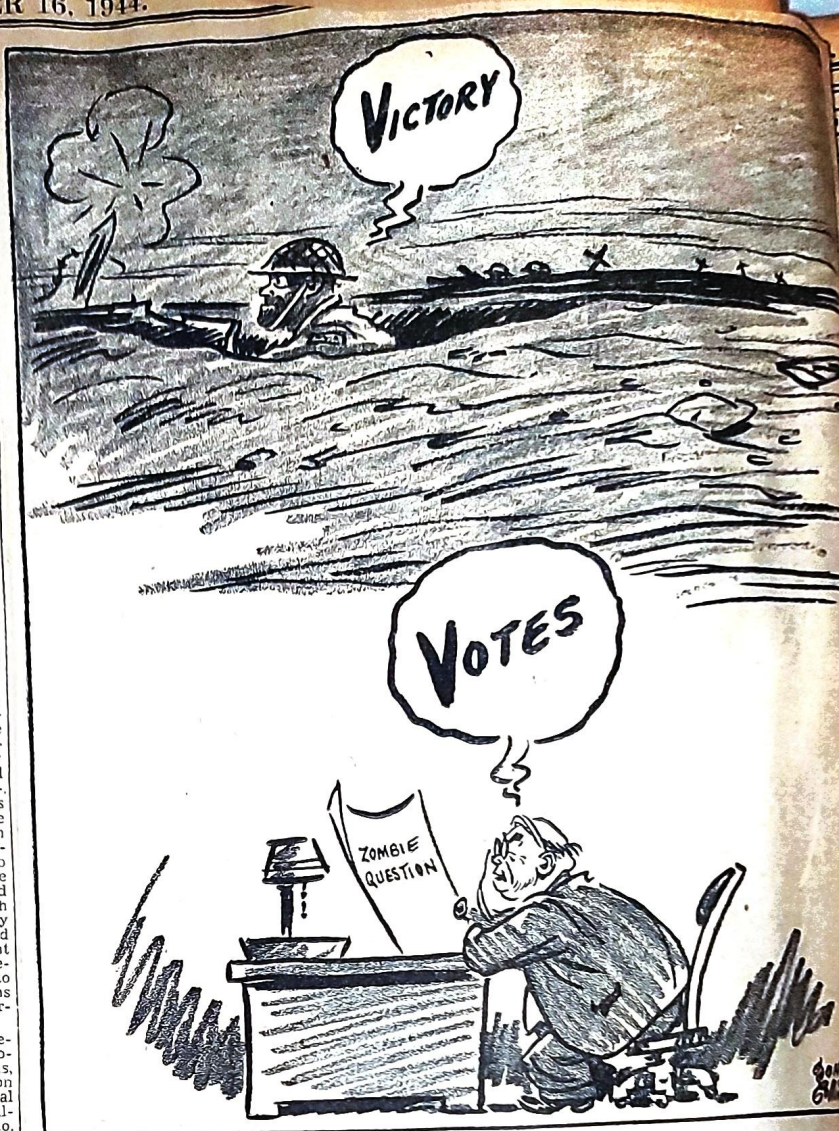
article entitled "Politics and Unions" (**La Patrie**). Duhamel's point of view is that labor should not, as a professional organization, support political parties:

"A labor union is essentially a professional association; it represents the views, the aspirations and the interests of a class or society, which exercises a trade or an activity in an economic sphere. The labor unions are thus the counterpart, if we wish, of a professional organization like the **Union Catholique des Cultivateurs** (Catholic Farmers Union) which aims to achieve co-operation among the farmers. Considering this, how is it possible for a professional body, as such, to adhere to a political party? Could we easily imagine, for instance, the Bar Association giving its support to the Liberals while the College of Surgeons affiliated with the **Union Nationale**? The same line of reasoning necessarily applies to labor unions."

"There is no advantage for political parties to seek such massive adhesions which would mostly be dead weight to carry. If they receive the unanimous support of any one class of society, their political philosophy will, by the force of circumstances, be diverted from its normal course; they will then be forced to elaborate a program which can satisfy but one part of the population—which cannot correspond to the legitimate aspirations of the whole. To be assured of a sound future, to render the services which are expected of it, a political party must appeal to the nation and avoid favoring one class to the detriment of another. That is why it must remain an organization appealing to the greatest number of citizens without trying to flirt with one particular group or association."

Le Monde Ouvrier repeats its previous warnings against the introduction of politics in labor unions, and quotes the opinions of Solon Low, National Chief of the Social Credit Party, and Hon. Charles Daley, Minister of Labor of Ontario. Both expressed their opinion as being against any affiliation of labor unions to political parties. The article concludes as follows:

"Thus we believe we are warranted in barring politics from the affairs and of the administration of labor unions. Politics is for politicians—not for labor leaders. It is our duty as citizens to vote in favor of candidates, from any party, whom we believe are best fitted to help our cause, but, let us fear as a real danger, any affiliation to one political party as against another. Let



THINKING OF V-DAY

ETTES. MONTREAL. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

LETTERS FROM READERS

Open Letter to the Prime Minister

Sir,—The undersigned would like you to publish the following open letter which we have sent to the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King:

"Dear Mr. Prime Minister: "Through numerous channels there has come to us a great volume of opinion embodying a wide-spread anxiety over the delay in sending reinforcements to our Army. "Colonel Ralston, a distinguished veteran of the last war, until recently a trusted Member of your Cabinet, has just returned from Europe with a definite report and recommendation as to reinforcements. To assume that the majority of the trained men in this country would be unwilling to go Overseas is unfair. No doubt many of them would be relieved to have the decision made for them."

"Lofty claims have been made for the superiority of a volunteer army. If Prime Minister Churchill, President Roosevelt, and Marshal Stalin have read these claims perhaps it is just as well that we do not hear their comments."

"We do not understand why it should be thought more glorious for our Canadian troops to be supported by draftees from other countries rather than be reinforced by fellow Canadians from the Home Defence Army."

"In the urgency and seriousness of the present situation may we beg, sir, that the trained draftees in this country be sent overseas as quickly as possible."

Yours very truly,

ELSIE S. REFORM
HARRIETT F. MILLER
SUSAN E. VAUGHAN
ETHEL H. PORTER
EVELYN RUSSEL
MARY C. LITTLE
CECILE LEGER
EMILY M. LANE
JULIETTE P. RAMSEY
MARY McDONALD
IVY S. MILROY
HELEN J. MACKENZIE
MARIE PAFINEAU
ESTHER SCOTT
L. MABEL KING

LETTERS FROM READERS

Now Is the Time . . .

It is with much regret we see the resignation of our Deputy Minister, Mr. Ralston, Canada's finest man at the time of its most needed.

Regarding the seventh Victory drive, I wish that the economy were practised in government administration as we hear drummed into us each day, we could wage war at a much lower cost.

It is very tiresome for us as fighting men to listen to how we can economize. We have to support a large army of Zombies here in Canada. They should be reinforcing overseas troops. So, now, Mr. Minister, is the time for all of us to come to the aid of the end, believe it or not, that day is the fighting man. Be in the future of Canada so forget your past promises like pie crust, made broken anyhow and let our fighting men see that you are in till the end, which we all trust will be soon. In the meantime I suggest you forgo politics and be the man that you expect our boys to there.

FLORENCE BROOKS
Montreal, November 7.

Good Citizenship

There was a small mishap in a brook street this morning. A load of bricks and tiles fell on to the street. While the men were picking up the debris, a gentlemanly boy came along and helped in to help. These lads are an example to us all and a helpful act should be strongly encouraged.

The spirit of helpfulness is lacking in Canada we can all appraise men more for their own people or to any good cause, but to interpret terms of hostility to others and error and the veiled used by the politician is particularly insidious. Antagonism is like and destroys the cooperation.

There need be lacking in devotion to his own people or to any good cause, but to interpret terms of hostility to others and error and the veiled used by the politician is particularly insidious. Antagonism is like and destroys the cooperation.

can all afford to exhibit to a greater degree the fine spirit of cooperation shown by these boys.

RICHARD KERRY.
Montreal, November 11.

Answers C. Fraser

Your correspondent, C. Fraser, can rest her mind and not about the war being fought. Unconditional surrender is what we are after, and that is what we are going to get. Our leaders have fooled this time. Germany's tremendous amends to make

to Russia and Poland. Her unconditional surrender will allow them at least a little satisfaction.

Another thing, conscription was here long before the Casablanca Conference, so the Conference had no bearing on the matter. If we needed conscription in the last war, how much greater is the need in this war, with our soldiers scattered all over the world. In the last war the soldiers were practically in one theatre for four years.

Also, the soldiers are going to get leaves at home, as soon as that order comes into force. Who is going to replace them? I say we need men and a strong government. A government that does not double-talk. One that will do as it says. Not one that is very fond of doing what Herman Goering says is "sugar coating."

I really think that C. Fraser does not know what it is all about. She quotes Lloyd George. I quote the King's speech to all his subjects at the start of the war. He told us the enemy were out to destroy us. Events have followed that have proved his words were too true. So let us carry on from there.

H. STACEY.
Montreal, November 15, 1944.

Faulty Air Mail Service

Sir—Will you permit me to address in your column, the Postmaster General in regard to the airmail service he provides and whose use he encourages and collects for.

In the last few months I have had a good deal of correspondence with New York City. I have no means of knowing whether or not my own letters, always mailed by noon, were received in New York the following day. But I have taken care to collect satisfactory proof that letters air-mailed by my New York friends, say today, never reach me until the day after tomorrow, i.e. like any train-borne mail. In the part of the city in which I live the one daily delivery is made between 9 and 10 o'clock in the morning. Apparently airmail letters are not received in time to be sorted and delivered at once but are kept over until the following morning.

To overcome this delay my friends sent two important letters airmail special delivery. The first letter—I have kept the envelopes—was mailed in New York on a Friday. I received it the following Sunday afternoon. The second one, mailed—also special delivery, mind you—on a Saturday night reached me the following Monday morning about half an hour before the regular delivery.

If the Postmaster General is incapable of rendering the service he advertises and charges for, he should discontinue it and so tell the public. Otherwise it is and will remain a fraud, even if sanctified by the government stamp. Or is this simply a case of local incompetence? If so, he should look into it.

PAUL ARMSTRONG.
Montreal, Nov. 15



A BANNER WITH A STRANGE DEVICE

Apparently Col. J. L. Ralston, until recently the Minister of National Defence, returned from his personal tour of the battlefronts determined to make conscription a political question rather than one of need. The Canadian field commanders and the British Higher Command in each theatre of operations—the men who supplied Col. Ralston with much of his data—are all more interested in playing politics than in meeting a military need. The Winnipeg Free Press, the leading journalistic supporter of the Liberal Government, by its recent criticism of Mr. King's evasiveness, is also (in some mysterious way) more interested in politics than in the need for reinforcements.

Looking over the Canadian scene at this moment, one is surprised, indeed, at the extent to which political shrewdness must have revived.

It is, of course, a rudimentary psychological fact that persons are quick to accuse others of the faults which disturb themselves. In the case of Mr. Howe, we have a member of that very Liberal Government which has never ceased to magnify anti-conscriptionist sentiment for the sake of political advantage, and which is now strenuously engaged in endeavoring to make political expedience appear like military integrity.

Now, however, as soon as the realities of war show disquieting signs of breaking through the concealments of politics, they at once turn upon their increasing opponents and seek to transfer to them the onus of political manoeuvring. But the plain fact is that something far more than politics is now moving down upon Mr. Howe and his colleagues. Their anti-conscriptionist expedience, which is now their dilemma, shows signs of becoming their nemesis. Precisely what they have so assiduously sown, they now reap in full measure. They reap, indeed, the tares of their own sowing.

Mr. Howe believes that the need for reinforcements overseas is not urgent. Consequently, he argues that the widespread demand that the draftees be sent overseas is nothing more than a political clamor which is disguising itself as a military and moral necessity. The essential motivation, according to his argument, is that those who are making this demand are not seeking to support the men in the field, so much as to embarrass the Government at home.

But Mr. Howe, be it noted, was not speaking in Canada. He spoke, he said, with the purpose of giving Canadians now living in Chicago some of the background of the Canadian scene. He emphasized that he was not expressing any personal opinion on the issue, but was speaking quite objectively. It will be felt that this objective address could not have exacted from Mr. Howe any severe effort. For between his objective appraisals and his personal opinions there is no perceptible distinction.

Curious results are obtained by taking Mr. Howe's objective Chicago appraisal and applying it to the recent facts in this country. We learn, as a consequence, that all those Canadian servicemen who have expressed in their letters home that reinforcements are needed and the draftees should be sent—all these servicemen are making conscription a political question rather than a question of need. All those Canadian parents who are demanding Government action in sending the draftees overseas are merely playing politics and are not primarily concerned with the need of their sons.

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Be what it may, life is a splendid thing.
—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17.

MR. HOWE IS OBJECTIVE.

Hon. C. D. Howe, Reconstruction Minister in the Liberal Cabinet, has provided a singularly vivid disclosure of his own mentality and probably that of many of his Government colleagues. Speaking before the Canadian Club of Chicago on Wednesday, he declared that conscription in Canada is "rather a political question than a question of need." An us vs. them need.

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The subject who is truly loyal to the Chief
Magistrate will neither advise nor submit to
arbitrary measures.—JUNIUS.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1944.

Public Has a Right to Know

In the absence of a clear statement of what will be done at the special session of the House of Commons, called for next Wednesday by Prime Minister King, it is inevitable that speculation stories based on available information will be written. In addition, public rumor will spread far and wide as if on wings as long as Mr. King refuses to tell the people of his plans.

The crisis facing the nation runs deep. Sons, husbands, brothers overseas are involved. It is a matter of getting to them trained reinforcements needed at once. The best way to clear rumor would be for Mr. King to take the country into his confidence. It has every right to know what lies ahead. The issue itself is plain, for every one knows reinforcements must be sent abroad, and there is a home defense army of draftees in Canada numbering 70,000.

Yesterday Mr. King's office made an announcement, on the authority of the Prime Minister, in which appeared the following: "The Prime Minister's principal secretary informed the press that he was authorized by the Prime Minister to say that the statement that Gen. McNaughton had given any such advice was wholly untrue."

The statement referred to the following news report: "Gen. McNaughton, committed to the voluntary enlistment plan when he entered the Cabinet two weeks ago, according to authoritative sources, has been forced by the hard facts of the army reinforcement position to reverse his policy, and has advised Prime Minister King the draftees are needed overseas."

According to The Canadian Press, Defense Minister McNaughton in an interview "said press reports that he had reversed his policy of voluntary enlistment for overseas service were 'wholly without foundation.'" The Canadian Press also reports that Gen. McNaughton had taken his stand "categorically."

The denials by Mr. King and Gen. McNaughton do not alter certain things. One of these is that what was announced as being "wholly untrue" and "wholly without foundation" today might have been true the day before, and may be true again tomorrow.

Mr. King now is in a crisis of his own making, by refusing to send overseas the draftees as reinforcements when they are the only ones who can bring prompt succor to the men in the line.

It was hoped by Mr. King that the appointment of Gen. McNaughton would stem the public demand for sending trained reinforcements to Italy and Holland. The trick was a political failure. His position has worsened since the McNaughton appointment. Gen. McNaughton, driven by his vindictiveness against Col. Ralston, has enmeshed himself in political intrigue. It is lamentable that a man who was regarded as a gallant soldier should permit his dislike of an individual to cause him to accept a policy which would fail the men who had trusted him, the men he once commanded.

Gen. McNaughton, accustomed to popularity, finds himself in a most unpopular position. The prestige built up for him has not stood, and will not stand, against the public's demand that the draftees be sent overseas to help the men who are fighting for our safety and freedom. But Gen. McNaughton is in it with Mr. King for better or worse, even though he must now see, after the actions of the Canadian Legion and the Canadian Corps Association, what veterans think of his position.

Mr. King's time these days is being spent in trying to find some political dodge which will stop the public outcry. But Mr. King's concern is not on the high plane of the needs of those overseas, as is the concern of the Legion and the Corps. It is how to wiggle out of a political position and still keep the votes of Quebec. The public concern is the saving of soldiers' lives.

A Deplorable Speech

Seldom has a politician staged a more reprehensible performance than did Hon. C. D. Howe in his address to the Canadian Club of Chicago on Wednesday. For one thing, its bad taste is almost unpardonable. Here he was in a foreign land representing his country in the role of a diplomatic negotiator at an important conference, and he suddenly abandoned this role to deliver a partisan harangue. Many of his audience must have regarded it as a grave abuse of the privilege accorded to him, and there is nothing to wonder at in the report that when the contents of the speech reached Ottawa they aroused consternation in Ministerial circles and expressions of disbelief in the accuracy of the press despatch.

The speech was, in the main, a eulogistic exposition of the Canadian war effort as managed by the King Government, and upon most of it any comment would be superfluous. But it contained certain statements of a most misleading character. Mr. Howe told his audience that the issue of conscription for overseas service in Canada was "rather a political question than a question of meeting an urgent need"; and also that on the basis of the information which he had received he did "not believe it is a question of meeting an overwhelming need."

Here was a thinly veiled attack upon the administrative ability and the public integrity of his late colleague, Col. Ralston, an accusation levelled at him that he was playing politics with this grave issue. But Col. Ralston was not the only person who stated that there was a question of meeting an urgent need. Did not Prime Minister King in his broadcast of Nov. 8 agree that there was an urgency when he said that Col. Ralston's report to the Cabinet "disclosed an immediate problem, which had to be faced"? Did not Gen. McNaughton, the newly fledged Minister of National Defense, make a similar admission? All these three have knowledge about the reinforcement problem, and none of them shares Mr. Howe's view that it is a purely political question.

The avowed object of Mr. Howe's speech was to give Canadian-born residents of Chicago some background about the situation in Canada. But when he undertook such a task it was incumbent upon him, if he had any respect for his position,

to be scrupulously careful about his account of the "background," and not to give, as he did, misleading information about it.

Mr. Howe, in common with the other Ministers who have stood by Mr. King, is obviously displeased that Col. Ralston has forced the issue about the army and set the interests of our fighting men overseas above the claims of partisan loyalty. Apparently Mr. Howe has conveniently forgotten that there was a time when he shared Col. Ralston's views about recruiting policy, and that he joined him about two years ago in tendering his resignation through dissatisfaction with his Leader's attitude. Both Ministers were induced to withdraw their resignations. But, whereas Col. Ralston has come to the end of his patience with Mr. King's manoeuvres and backslidings, Mr. Howe has relapsed into an attitude of obsequious complacency. He might at least have the decency not to use a foreign audience as a forum for attacking by implication a former colleague who happened to have a greater fund of courage and public honesty.

Tell It to Your M.P.

Forty members of a veterans' club at a luncheon meeting yesterday considered how they could help, decided and went to work. As a result each called up 10 friends and pledged them to telephone, write or telegraph their members of Parliament appealing for action to reinforce the men overseas.

This was democracy in operation. Who has greater justification for seeking to influence Parliamentary representatives than those who elect them for public service?

When the members reach Ottawa next week for the suddenly summoned session, those supporting the Government will be corralled to do the organization's bidding. There will be a caucus at which they may have a chance to report the wishes of the folks back home but at which they will be expected to obey the Prime Minister's ruling.

A courageous majority can overrule the Leader. A majority, adequately impressed by the popular demand in their ridings, will do so. They will not take orders, but give them, for every member, including the Prime Minister himself, is in Ottawa only by the grace of the electors in his constituency.

The veterans' club has given a fine lead to citizens everywhere who are anxious to have the combat forces kept at fighting and winning strength. If every such citizen lets his member know he is desperately in earnest about this matter he can influence the course of the session.

Is it worth the effort? There never was a public issue so important as winning the war, and there never was a more critical decision to be made than that confronting Parliament now. The boys will get trained help promptly, or they will not. The Government is keeping thousands of trained men idle in this country because it hasn't had "the guts"—to use its own expression—to apply conscription fairly and evenly in all sections.

This is an opportunity for the voice of the people to be heard. Stiffen the backbone of your member of Parliament so he will go to Ottawa prepared to do his share of the fighting for the army.

Situation in Canada Hard to Understand

I'm a constant reader of The Globe and Mail. I'm a citizen of the U.S.A., but am a great admirer of Canada as well as the British Empire and what it stands for. I'm of Scotch descent—in fact my father was born near Montreal.

I don't suppose it is ethical for a citizen of the U.S.A. to make any comment about domestic issues inside of Canada. I'm a yearly visitor to Canada, going to Port Arthur and Fort William on account of hay fever. I've made many friends in that area and follow Canadian news very closely.

I just can't understand this bad situation in Canada on account of the conscription issue. Just why any section of your country should feel it should have special privilege is beyond me. In my country selective service means just what it says and everybody is placed where he will do the most good for the war effort. As you no doubt know, every draftee is subject to service in any part of the world. Apparently Quebec doesn't feel any obligation to the Empire or the United Nations. I've tried to understand their point of view, but it is beyond me. If they are not satisfied being in a democracy, why don't they transport themselves to some other country of their liking?

G. D. Currie,
Minneapolis, U.S.A.



The French Press

McNaughton and National Unity.
(Press Information Bureau.)

A hundred or so words are scarcely sufficient to sum up the political situation in Quebec province after Colonel Ralston's departure and General McNaughton's appointment to his shoes. The latter figure has always enjoyed popularity throughout the province, where there was fondness for recalling that "the father of the Canadian army always refused to send his soldiers into the front line when they were without the necessary equipment."

Whether this be truth or legend will not be known until after the war, but it is widely believed, and it can well be imagined that the Arnprior speech has done nothing to diminish that popularity. Today, the average Quebecer is not absolutely sure that he will never see overseas conscription. But he is convinced that such will never be imposed by Mr. King and his new Defence Minister. Even the Nationalist press takes this for granted, and has no hesitation in saying so:

Le Droit: "From the crisis which has just shaken the King Cabinet, one thing clearly results: as long as he is Prime Minister, Mr. King is resolved not to apply direct conscription for military service overseas. . . . We have at this time five divisions overseas; if it should be necessary to reduce the number to ensure to our fighting men the reinforcements deemed necessary by the military authorities, he (Mr. King) will prefer to reduce the number of our divisions. Whether that pleases or not, Mr. King, after embarking along the conscription road, and making concession after concession to those who are out for the lawful application of direct conscription for overseas service is, at the moment, the most solid rampart against such an enactment."

Le Devoir: "Mr. King was responsible for the adoption of a law which allows conscripts to be sent anywhere in the world. An Order-in-Council would be all that was required for that, or in other words, the pressing of a button. If ever it should be pressed, it will not be perhaps by the present government, but it is this government which has placed it there."

The Liberal press was not slow in sounding the alarm. Coming just after the Drew affair concerning family allowances, the resignation of Mr. Ralston and General McNaughton's statement approving the voluntary system have the appearance of two harbingers of a "Liberal landslide at the next elec-

tions." Recalling an article published a few days before in **Le Devoir**, "It remains to be seen if, indeed, the successor of Laurier will be able to cope with Colonel Ralston."

Le Canada commented thus: "It has been done. The successor of Laurier has chosen in resounding fashion the path of his solemn pledges and his given word."

Then, discussing the Arnprior speech, the Liberal organ added that "the attention which General McNaughton received. . . and the composure with which he made his appeal in favor of a voluntary system of a more extensive kind indicate well enough the end of a confusion created throughout the country by the Tory conspiracy and the unbalanced attitude of the Nationalists in order to introduce militarism into our democratic way of life."

For its part, **Le Soleil** takes its stand against the so-called view of "equality in sacrifice," and uses Mr. Coldwell's classic argument: "There cannot be equality of sacrifice if total conscription is imposed on young Canadians while rich men are free to do what they like with their wealth." Then adds **Le Soleil** in commenting on the Drew address:

"It is not known if a single big capitalist has pushed his patriotic devotion to the point of handing over all his fortune and his business undertakings so as to equal, as much as possible, the sacrifice of young Canadians who offered their lives for the cause of their country and its Allies. There has, therefore, been no equality of sacrifice in the voluntary system, and those who accept such a formula must begin by giving the example by ridding themselves of their material wealth, when they are not of an age to bear arms. What does Colonel Drew think of this idea?"

The independent newspapers and **L'Action Catholique** fully support Mr. King. **La Presse** states that once again Mr. King has stood forth as the guardian of national unity, while **La Patrie** takes the opportunity to denounce what the everyday Quebec Liberal calls the extremists of both camps: Nationalists and Tories.

"We are desirous that all Canadians should get together to support sincerely a policy which ensures domestic peace in Canada. Let us leave the extremists of both camps to go ahead with their grievous work of disunion and put our trust in the men who have shown themselves to be alert defenders of Canadian unity."

CONSCRIPTION FOR OVERSEAS SERVICE IS "RATHER A POLITICAL QUESTION THAN A QUESTION OF MEETING AN URGENT NEED" SAYS RECONSTRUCTION MINISTER C.D. HOWE.

Farmers' Sons Drafted In Ontario; Not in Quebec

I was amazed to see a feature illustrated article in a recent edition of a Toronto Liberal paper about a French-Canadian family living on the Isle d'Orleans, near Quebec City. Amazed because it flung in the face of Ontario citizens with startling force two of the worst bribes offered Quebec by the King Government at the expense of the rest of Canada.

The typical French-Canadian family proudly flaunted by the paper has 10 children, of whom at least six are apparently eligible for family allowance grants, but it takes only \$20 cash a month to pay the way for the whole family. He "has stocks of food that make his basement look like a wholesale warehouse."

His sons "are big boys, typical of this race," but "he got them out of the army"; they are aged 23 and 25, and this notwithstanding the fact that they farm only 40 acres. I know of at least one Ontario farmer with over 200 acres who was left with a 15-year-old son and the army took his other son the day he became of age; and there are others in the same district with over 100 acres where the only son is in the army. It is doubtful that there is a family in Ontario where the income from the family allowance will more than pay the upkeep of the entire family.

Ontario Not Guilty

It is not Ontario that is splitting Canadian unity and causing hard feelings with Quebec—it is the King Liberal Government that so desperately courts Quebec. Nobody is pleased, not even Quebec. Ontario has no quarrel with Quebec. Indeed we have a golden opportunity to cement a lasting friendship with a great Province and a great people. The wedge is driven in solid by Mr. King with his political tactics; and Mr. Bracken, Premier Drew and the Progressive Conservative Party are doing a service to Canada by insisting that these glaring inequalities be removed in order that Ontario and Quebec may work together harmoniously. Mr. King's "divide and rule" policy has finally caught up with him, and he should call quits. Surely his nights must be sleepless with the knowledge that our soldiers at the front plead in vain for help that he withholds while he plays politics with Quebec.

Toronto. George A. Gazley.

No Secret Session

The nation continues in the dark as to the Prime Minister's motives in reassembling the House of Commons. The few official statements have but confounded the confusion. Only one thing seems constant and undeniable: That the intent is to unmask the facts about the shortages of army reinforcements in a secret session.

This must not be. To do so is to play politics with an issue in which there are not and should not be any politics. All the House of Commons is required to do is get trained reinforcements to our men overseas immediately.

The anxiety which tortures this nation does not rise from political considerations. It is not the product of Liberal, Progressive Conservative or any other kind of partisan emotions. It comes from the decent human feelings of people who are outraged that the men fighting for them should needlessly be endangered, and a little ashamed that they have allowed their situation to become critical.

The public has been complacent about the situation too long. It has been complacent because it has been uninformed. It has been kept uninformed because of the Government's refusal, for political reasons, to meet honest questions and criticism with facts.

"Not in the public interest," How often was that phrase used to silence an inquiring Opposition? Then there was the Prime Minister's pledge: "Conscription (for) the maintenance of necessary reinforcements for the Canadian Army overseas." As Defense Minister, Col. Ralston reminds us, he used it repeatedly to reassure the nation.

Today's crisis is the product of secrecy. Had the people been informed, there would be no reinforcement shortage. There must be no secrecy as to why that pledge is unredempted. The Canadian people must not be shut off from the facts at this hour of grave decision.

There is no necessity for secrecy; no military excuse for it. Col. Ralston has nothing to hide. What can Mr. King have to hide? What could possibly give the enemy comfort but the knowledge that the situation is so bad the Government does not dare reveal the truth to the people?

The only reason for secrecy is political necessity, more partisan manoeuvring. It will not be tolerated if the members of the House of Commons put partisan tactics aside. The Prime Minister is a great advocate of "the supremacy of Parliament." This is the occasion when, as representatives of the people, as distinct from party, the members of Parliament must establish their sovereignty. And do it in the full light of an open session.

MR. KING DENIES M'NAUGHTON ADVISED CHANGE

By KENNETH C. CRAGG

Ottawa, Nov. 16 (Staff).—Uncertainty and confusion that has marked nearly every development in the Government crisis over the army reinforcement position was increased here today when Prime Minister King had a statement issued which denied today's report in The Globe and Mail that Defense Minister McNaughton had advised him "the draftees are needed overseas."

Mr. King issued the denial through his secretary.

Mr. King's secretary said: "When asked if the Prime Minister had any comment to make on the press statement that Gen. McNaughton 'committed to the voluntary enlistment plan when he entered the Cabinet two weeks ago, according to authoritative sources, has been forced by the hard facts of the army reinforcement position to reverse his policy and has advised Prime Minister King the draftees are needed overseas,' the Prime Minister's principal secretary informed the press that he was authorized by the Prime Minister to say that the statement that Gen. McNaughton had given any such advice was wholly untrue."

"It is the Prime Minister's well-known belief that Parliament is the proper place to deliberate upon matters of national concern. In the light of the existing controversy, the decision to reconvene the House is obviously in the public interest."

Evidence that the statement was open to misinterpretation and was misinterpreted, was reflected in the Capital press with such headlines as "Denies McNaughton has reversed views," and "King denies McNaughton changes his mind."

During the day, it was learned one news organization here was advised by a member of Mr. King's staff that its summary had misinterpreted the statement and that the statement said simply that "the statement that Gen. McNaughton had given any such advice was wholly untrue."

The statement said "the Prime Minister's principal secretary informed the press that he was authorized by the Prime Minister to say that the statement that Gen. McNaughton had given any such advice was wholly untrue."

Gen. McNaughton said The Globe and Mail report that he had been forced to reverse his position on voluntary enlistments was "wholly without foundation."

Explains His Stand

Gen. McNaughton said today he had taken his stand "categorically" in recent speeches in which he urged support for continuation of the voluntary system of recruiting.

He added the Tuesday meeting of commanding officers from across Canada "confirmed my belief more than ever that continuation of a voluntary policy will provide the reinforcements."

As the fog of mystery on Mr. King's intentions deepens, an increasing tendency is seen among his own followers to blame the outcry against the Government's adherence to the voluntary plan rather than of accepting former Defense Minister Ralston's recommendation to send draftees by compulsion, on the secrecy that has bound every move.

The first hard-bound fact to emerge from the crisis was Mr. King's press conference admission on Nov. 2 that Col. Ralston had resigned and that Gen. McNaughton had been sworn in as his successor.

He declined to say why he had resigned.

Details of Letters

Liberals do maintain that a frank statement then with the disclosure of the correspondence which passed between Mr. King and Col. Ralston, within the limits of security, would have done much to clear the air, and probably would have averted public outcry.

Last week persons within the party in a position to know said that there was no outcry from Liberals against Col. Ralston precipitating the issue as his conscience

Will Release Fliers at 33

Calgary, Nov. 16 (CP).—Confirmation of a report that all officers and airmen below the rank of Acting Squadron Leader and on the general list of flying personnel will be given their discharge from the RCAF upon reaching their 33rd birthday was given here today by No. 4 Air Training Command Headquarters.

Temporary squadron leaders will be given their discharge upon reaching their 36th birthday.

Air Force Headquarters in Ottawa had no comment to make on the Calgary report.

dictated in respect of his public pledges to send draftees into the fighting when there was the need.

They said his views were respected, and that he was well thought of in the party generally.

In recent days a suspicion has been growing that party spirits have begun a whispering campaign against the former Defense Minister. It is found in suggestions that the issue was not important enough to smear or cause to have discounted the Administration's general war effort in the public mind.

Motive Implied

Attempts are being made to implicate Col's Ralston's loyalty to the Liberal Party by suggesting that behind his stand on Government pledges was a plan to oust Mr. King and to place himself as leader of all those in Parliament who believed as he did on the need of reinforcing overseas units by compulsion.

No one has been able to explain it yet, in view of both Prime Minister King's and Gen. McNaughton's statements of the need of getting trained infantrymen to the overseas reinforcement pool, but Reconstruction Minister Howe's Chicago speech yesterday, in which he is quoted that conscription is "rather a political question than a question of meeting an urgent need," has caused more heartburning within the party than anything since Justice Minister St. Laurent told a Quebec audience on Nov. 5 that the majority in Quebec would have "deemed themselves deceived by their English compatriots" if compulsion had been ordered.

Ten-Day Debate Seen

Ministerial circles today expressed the view the House of Commons will require 10 days to decide its stand on reinforcements for overseas.

The Cabinet held a 3½-hour meeting today and at its conclusion officials said no statement was expected.

Ministers who agree with Mr. King's stand continued to express the view that the Government would be prepared to hold secret sittings and give the members all the information available on the reinforcement situation.

The Progressive Conservative leaders have been in Winnipeg, but Gordon Graydon, House leader, is expected back tomorrow. M. J. Coldwell, CCF leader, will be back Sunday and John Blackmore, head of the Social Credit Party, will likely be here well in advance of the opening.

The Opposition leaders are expected to keep their plans secret until the Government has produced the information it has on the reinforcement situation.

Will Report on Recruiting

The haste, if not anxiety, of the Government to obtain some showing of volunteers from infantry-trained draftees before members are called into caucus on the eve of next Wednesday's meeting of the Commons was indicated when Defense Minister McNaughton said today the results of recruiting efforts "will be reported to me by telegram."

In his second statement on Tuesday's meeting of commanding officers of commands and districts, Gen. McNaughton said reinforcement measures outlined at the conference will be put into effect by the officers when they reach their posts.

The Minister also said that further information and analysis of the composition of home defense draftees are being prepared by the statistical branches of the army and will be issued soon.

Equipment Lacking in Toronto Veteran Asse

Confirming recent statements of Lt.-Col. Thomas Medland that Canadian troops in Italy had been fighting with inadequate equipment, William McIntosh, Beresford Ave., a former member of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment, yesterday declared his platoon had left "things strewn along the road for miles" because of lack of transportation. He declared the platoon had been given a Bren gun carrier which had gone through the North African desert campaign and was worthless. "They had to tow it to our station, and not even the best efforts of our repair gangs could make it run," he said. "It came from the 51st Highland Division and was still painted the sand color it had worn in the desert."

So far as clothing is concerned, "We went into the hills in February. It was bitterly cold and we almost froze. I had one shirt, one pair of shorts, and one pair of summer drill trousers. The British troops seemed to be amply equipped with plenty of new clothes, webbing, and things like that."

"When we moved into Italy we had one truck to carry supplies and ammunition for 45 men. Yet we passed hundreds of parked trucks behind the lines. On one occasion we had to send a motorcycle 60 miles to get a 'bogey' wheel for the truck tracks."

McIntosh, who brought an English bride and year-old baby back with him, declared he "only wanted to

Text of Statement

Text of today's statement: "Yesterday I issued to the press a brief statement summarizing the matters which were under consideration at my conference the previous day with the general officer commanding Pacific Command and officers commanding all military districts in Canada."

"The principal matter dealt with was the provision of reinforcements for overseas and particularly the question of trained reinforcements for the infantry, which is the part of the problem in which the situation may become acute. This whole matter was examined objectively and with the utmost frankness, with the purpose of providing the army overseas with its requirements."

"I have drawn from the minds of great experience of these officers their considered views as to the steps which are open to be taken and the results which would follow."

"Measures to bring the conclusions reached into operation were decided and these will be put into

effect by the commanding officers on their arrival at their headquarters, to which they are now en route. The results will be reported to me by telegram. Meanwhile, further information and detailed analysis of the composition of the N.R.M.A. are being prepared by the statistical branches. These will be issued promptly on completion for the information of the public."

McTague Forsees Election

Winnipeg, Nov. 16 (CP). — C. P. McTague, national Progressive Conservative Party chairman, in an interview here last night, said it is his personal opinion Prime Minister King will call an election during the session of the House of Commons which starts Nov. 22.

"Mr. King will not ask for a vote of confidence when the House meets, he will go to the country on the conscription issue," he said, adding that the Opposition would goad Mr. King to a vote of confidence.

"Under that goading, he will swing to the proposition of conscription, indicating that the desire of the Canadian people is what he will adopt regardless of his personal views. It's all tactics and in line with his past moves."

Lost Faith in Canada Worse Than Lost Legs

By IVERS KELLY

A legless veteran of this war is wondering whether Canada was worth fighting for.

"Many of us who come back are discouraged by what we see," said Lieut. L. B. Groom of St. Stephen, N.B., 25-year-old former teacher who enlisted early in 1940 and was undaunted when he lost both his legs in a shell explosion as he was wishing "Merry Christmas" to a friend near the lines at Ortona, Italy, last Christmas afternoon. The friend, Reg McNeil of Sussex, N.B., was killed in the explosion.

Cheerful and happy in his enjoyment of the present and in his plans for the future as he studies for his senior matriculation preparatory to entering university for a degree in physics, Lieut. Groom at the same time feels deep concern for the state of his homeland and for the friends he left on the battlefield "with inadequate reinforcements."

"Most of us signed up for Canada and we left a Dominion," he said. "But the first thing that strikes us when we return is the disunity—Province against Province, English against French. Too many elements are trying to gain control and are playing one off against the other. It must be worse now than before Confederation—then all parts of the country were at least striving toward unity."

"All these signs of disunity and of political juggling make one wonder for what we were fighting."

Many of Same Mind

"Others think as I do, that if we'd had conscription for overseas service right from the beginning of the war this disunity would not

have resulted. There might have been a bit of a flareup for a few weeks, but it would have died down," he said.

Lieut. Groom, who was retired from the army last June, with both legs off at the hips, is happy he is at Christie St. Hospital, where he feels toward other patients the close bond that unites all service personnel.

"Over there on the battlefronts it didn't make any difference whether a man was a French-Canadian or an English-Canadian, whether he came from Toronto, the Prairies or the Maritimes. All we thought of was that every one of us was a Canadian. And we were proud of being Canadian," he said.

"Some of the boys in my company were French, some were English. Some companies had English officers and French boys, others had French officers and English boys. But every one forgot French or English, every one thought of being Canadian."

"We were all Canadian, and we all—French and English speaking—felt the same way about conscription. We all thought the draftees who were trained should be sent overseas."

Didn't Know Score

"The reinforcement situation was darn discouraging to the fellows there. We might lose half a company at one time and not know when reinforcements were coming up."

"The men at holding units were below par. As men they were splendid types, but as soldiers they didn't know the score. We had to teach them basic fundamentals."

His infectious smile is cheerful and recurrent as he recalls the Christmas Day when the shell exploded behind him and changed him "from 5 feet 9 inches of soldier to the height and mobility of a seal." He added that he did a great deal of thinking during his convalescence. "As a result I formed a new outlook on life," he said. "It will seem strange to the average person, but I never have mourned the loss of my legs. I have had more peace of mind than ever before; my hope for the future is higher now than ever."

Poorly Trained Reinforcements Dangerous, Returned Man Says

Cooksville, Nov. 15 (Staff).—The reinforcement situation is so bad among Canadian troops in France that "lots of the men we got didn't know what they were doing with our main weapon, the Piat, and we had to watch both them and the enemy. And you can't do two things at once over there." This was the statement tonight of Rflm. Walter Bassant, 20, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, who is spending a short leave at home before returning to Chorley Park Hospital.

"We had a couple of fellows in my platoon," he said "who didn't know how to load or fire the Piat, although it was one of our main weapons. Some were not so bad on Bren guns. We just had to take them off the Piat and give them a Bren gun to use. Some body who did know something about it, and hand the newcomers a rifle with which to do what they could," he said.

Bassant returned on a hospital ship after being severely wounded in the left leg by shrapnel in Au-



Rflm. Bassant

gust, shortly after he, and four companions had captured 250 Germans in a surprise movement. He was flown from a field hospital in France to England.

Military authorities, at the request of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Percy D. Bassant, allowed him a 48-hour leave and he was taken from hospital by ambulance to Cooksville.

"I haven't seen the Major Conn Smythe's statement about the reinforcement situation, but if he says a lot of them don't know how to handle a Piat or Bren, he is entirely correct," Bassant said. "Some of the reinforcements were dangerous to us."

Shortly after he was wounded, he received 10 blood plasma transfusions, which, he said, "saved my life."

Conscription Is Above All Partisan Issues, Liberal M.P. Declares

Sarnia, Nov. 16 (CP).—R. W. Gray, Liberal member for Lambton West, told a public meeting here he believed conscription transcended all party issues.

Mr. Gray said he had attended the meeting to learn the sentiments of the citizens of Sarnia and Point Edward on the subject of conscription for overseas service. He added he hoped his stand in the House would be reported in the press and said he would welcome the opportunity to tell another public meeting later exactly what transpires at Ottawa.

Full Reinforcements

Calgary, Nov. 16 (CP).—M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. National Leader, said in a public address: "Our Canadian troops must receive all the reinforcements they need overseas." He added reinforcements were necessary "not only to win the war but to bring home men who have been serving overseas for the past five years."

Orangemen Petition M.P.

Kirkland Lake, Nov. 16 (Special).—A resolution demanding that he impress on the Government the necessity of sending reinforcements now in Canada to the aid of men fighting in Europe has been forwarded by Loyal Orange Lodge No. 705, here, to Walter Little, M.P. for Temiskaming.

A special meeting of the Canadian Legion is called for tomorrow to consider the Government's manpower policy.

35 Days Without Rest

Melanchton, Nov. 16 (Special).—Writing from Italy to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ruff, Melanchton, Sgt. T. Eric Ruff, attached to the Tank Corps, says: "We fight for 35 days without a rest. After three days we are back into the fight again." Sgt. Ruff went overseas four years ago with the Governor-General's Horse Guards. His home is in Toronto.

To Arouse Public Opinion

Ottawa, Nov. 16 (CP).—Alex Walker, president of the Canadian Legion, has asked all Provincial commands of the Legion to arouse "public opinion . . . to demand full implementation of a total war policy" and to see that members of Parliament were approached before the House of Commons meets next Wednesday, it was announced today.

Mr. Walker said calling of the Commons to discuss the reinforcement situation presented "a challenge to the Legion to again arouse public opinion as in 1941 to demand full implementation of a total war policy."

"What is needed now is the strongest possible public backing of a demand for the replacement of voluntary enlistments by conscription by immediate use of draftees for overseas reinforcements."

Will Question M.P.'s

London, Ont., Nov. 16 (CP).—W. E. Foster, Canadian Legion commander of Zone 3, comprising London and the near-by county, will formally question Capt. Allen Johnson, M.P. for London, and Col. Duncan Ross, M.P. for Middlesex East, on their stand on the draftee issue, he said today. He said that his action would be on behalf of the Ontario Command of the Canadian Legion and at their direction.

Across the Province, the legion announced that it will ask all Ontario members of Parliament two questions: "Are you in favor of immediately making available for overseas reinforcements the draftees called up for home defense?" and "Will you pledge to support this policy and to demand a recorded vote in Parliament?"

Draftees at Foundry

Hamilton, Nov. 16 (CP).—Fifteen members of Canada's Home Defense

army have been assigned to the malleable iron foundry at the International Harvester Co., plant here, it was announced today by selective service officials. They were the first group of Home Defense troops to be employed in Hamilton.

Selective service officials said another 25 may be sent to Hamilton in the near future since several local firms have been asking for men, particularly in the steel industry.

Directive to Mills

St. Thomas, Nov. 16 (Special).—The St. Thomas branch of the Canadian Legion sent an open letter to W. H. Mills, Liberal M.P. for Elgin, outlining the Legion's stand on conscription and asking him to vote in support of this policy if and when any measure is presented in the House of Commons.

Faith in McNaughton

Port Elgin, Nov. 16 (CP).—In an address at Port Elgin this afternoon, Revenue Minister Colin Gibson said: "The people are worried about the reinforcement situation. Col. Ralston has recommended conscription for overseas service. Gen. McNaughton believes in the voluntary system."

He asked if any one could possibly imagine that McNaughton would recommend any course of action that would not be to the benefit of the men in the armies overseas whose training had been most of his responsibility. Col. Gibson refused to comment further on this subject in view of the session called for Ottawa next week.

Complete Rout of Nazis Imperative, Villeneuve Says on Arrival Home

Montreal, Nov. 17 (CP).—Cardinal Villeneuve told a gathering of military men here today that "you cannot fight this war by condensing the horizon to this continent."

The Cardinal, who just a few hours before had returned from a six-month tour of Italy, France, Belgium and Britain, said that he had received a deep impression of the war and what it meant. He said the object of his visit to Canadian troops overseas was to see for himself what was happening.

"I am not taking any attitude properly, but you cannot fight this war by condensing the horizon to this continent," His Eminence said. "The Nazi has got to be completely defeated, or there will be no peace for our way of life."

Soldiers Courageous

Cardinal Villeneuve made no direct reference to the conscription issue, but said that he had found the Canadian soldiers courageous and of good Christian spirit and that their effort was a voluntary one.

Maj.-Gen. L. R. LaFleche, War Services Minister, who met the Cardinal at the airport and later took him to the conference of military men, said that the conference had been dealing with the conscription issue and that the Cardinal had expressed, when he heard of it, to the military authorities and to them "the latest from the front."

He added that the conference had been arranged prior to the arrival of the Cardinal by air, and it was at the airport that his Eminence had received an invitation to end.

Confident on Recruiting

We have been conferring on how to get men and we are going to get them," said the War Services Minister. "If we put forward the proper appeal to the French-Canadians, they will respond to us like other good Canadians will respond when the appeal is properly made."

"The Cardinal was not part of our recruiting plan, but we are very grateful for his visit," said Villeneuve in a brief interview afterwards. "The Cardinal Villeneuve said he was glad to go back in Canada and that he would have occasion to give a more lengthy report of his trip."

He said he was glad to meet the military men in Montreal and to find them the best wishes of his compatriots, as well as to express his own feelings of admiration and gratitude for what those overseas are doing.

Argument Not Convincing

Hamilton, Nov. 17 (Staff).—Government assurances that the voluntary system of supplying reinforcements to the Canadian Army overseas is preferable to other methods do not carry "a great deal of conviction," in the opinion of the Second World War Veterans of Canada, Hamilton.

This view of the membership of the next ex-servicemen's organization is expressed in an open letter, copies of which have been sent to the United Council of Veterans here and the press, under signature of F. J. Smith, commander.

The letter continues: "It is surprising that Gen. McNaughton, who went overseas in 1939 with an army composed entirely of volunteers, should give tacit and public approval of these mythical stories by accepting the portfolio of Minister of National Defense, and in this regard Col. Ralston's resignation is no more impressive than the general's appointment, as he was a Cabinet Minister since the beginning of the war."

Need Long Evident

"In any case, the need for reinforcements must surely have been evident some time ago, or are we to believe that the notice of the shortage coincided with the council's (Ralston's) visit to the front because, if so, it is an implied reflection on the existing High Command."

Backs the Provincial Command
Cobourg, Nov. 17 (Special).—Cobourg branch of the Canadian Legion passed a resolution endorsing the stand of its Provincial headquarters in regard to sending draftees overseas. W. A. Fraser, Liberal M.P., will be notified.

Support Ralston

Niagara Falls, Ont., Nov. 17 (CP).—The Canadian Corps Association and the Imperial unit here have passed a resolution supporting the stand of Col. J. L. Ralston in demanding that trained draftee troops be made available as reinforcements for the Canadian army overseas. The resolution will be sent to Labor Minister Humphrey Mitchell, Liberal member for Welland.

Troops Active Since D-Day Deserve Rest, Says Veteran

Kitchener, Nov. 17 (Special).—"The Zombies are certainly needed on the fighting fronts to give the men who have been in there since D-Day a rest," declared Pte. Harold S. Manto, III, casually from the battle of Caen, on arrival home on leave.

Pte. Manto recalled that one of his pals, Pte. Joseph J. Piltner, wounded the same day, returned to the fighting in Belgium and was killed Oct. 20. "Casualties are fixed up as quickly as possible at hospitals either in France or England and shot back into the lines," he said.

"The men who have been fortunate enough to escape wounds are still in there and one hears little, if anything, about leaves. The boys

got a break once in a while in the last war when they were sent back after so many days of duty in the front-line trenches.

"Leaves were handed out and they were rested before going back. There were reinforcements to replace them, but the boys are fighting now day after day with but few reinforcements to back them up."

"All of us coming back believe that the Zombies should be sent over there to relieve the men who have been carrying the brunt of the battle. If they had them in France or Italy, ready to go up in the line, then there would not be the same necessity for taking casualties out of hospital and sending them back."

Reinforcements Needed in 1943

During the spring of 1943 I was on the staff of a Canadian reinforcement unit in Great Britain. There drafts were received from Canada, trained for eight weeks and then despatched to the various Canadian divisions in England. At this particular time our 1st Division was making final preparations for the invasion of Sicily. This included the bringing up to full fighting strength of all the various units comprising the division.

As the time drew near for their departure it became evident that a great number of skilled reinforcements for driving and maintaining certain types of vehicles were going to be required. Those available at our reinforcement centre were mainly new arrivals from Canada, who had just commenced their eight weeks of specialized training. Blackout driving, driving on the left

side of the road and handling war supplies were foreign to most of them. This all-important course was reduced to four weeks, then to two weeks, and finally we were told to send reinforcements regardless of the extent of overseas training.

Canada's famous 1st Division preparing for its first large-scale attack was forced to take these untrained men. When this deplorable condition existed early in 1943, why is our Government only now admitting that the Canadian Army Overseas has not sufficient reinforcements?

P.S.—This article was written early in the spring of 1944, but, with D-Day imminent, it did not seem advisable to say anything which might cause additional anxiety to families in Canada.

Cameron C. Hillmer, Lieut. (retired). Burlington.

Boy's Nerves Shattered But Sent Back to Lines

I read with interest Conny Smythe's views on the overseas situation, and also the article by Alan Cockeram.

May I give an example, quoted below, to prove how true these statements are, and to thank them for their courage in putting the facts plainly on paper for all to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest—regardless.

Suffered Bombing

My son has been overseas three years. He went to France on D-Day, and was blown up in the air on his motorcycle when our boys were bombed by our Allied planes by mistake. All his pals were killed. Four days after, he recovered consciousness in a British hospital. He wasn't able to write for a while, but a kindly welfare officer (name unknown) wrote to me, and said he was pretty muddled in his mind, and was to have a complete rest, and he would keep in touch with me until the boy was himself again.

We knew he had been badly shaken up and was suffering from shell-shock. To our surprise and astonishment, the next time we received word from the boy himself he was out of the hospital and back in the lines.

A Man of Nerves

So I fall to see where the complete rest came in. In his last letter he tells me he is mass of nerves, and couldn't concentrate on his work. In his own words, "Mom, the way I feel right now, I will never be any good for army or civilian life." Which speaks for itself.

It makes our blood boil when we read of the consideration the Zombies are being shown, while my boy and hundreds of mothers' boys are shoved back to fight and bolster up the lines—for what?

Toronto. Mrs. Jimmie Smith.

A Word for 'Draftees': They Obeyed the Law

I think it is time that newspapers and individuals cease to apply a particularly objectionable name to draftees in training. However much a person may disagree with Government policy, there is nothing fine or noble in hurling this horrid name at these young men.

The draftees in training are not criminals or mental defectives. They are decent young men who have obeyed the law as it stands, and have been taken from civilian jobs or schooling, at the same inconvenience as any one else, and accepted the training prescribed for them. Many more young men of draftee age have been rejected and are still in civilian life. Others, physically fit, have had deferments. Why are the lads in uniform singled out for insult?

If other means fail to provide the necessary reinforcements for overseas and we are obliged to say to these chaps: "You must go," then let us say so in a spirit of kindness, rather than one of bitter offensiveness. K. Roy Edwards. Toronto.

'Backing the Attack'

Isn't it possible to issue coupons or the public to send to their representatives at Ottawa telling them whether they want the able-bodied men of the country conscripted?

Do they want the uniform worn by our men fighting for the Empire and our allies disgraced by being filled by Zombies? If the so-called defense army is not trained after five years, why not? Is that what the Government calls Backing the Attack?

Niagara-on-the-Lake. Valentine C. Oslow.

were equalized on a retroactive basis."

Sudbury In Favor

Sudbury, Nov. 17 (CP).—The Sudbury branch of the Canadian Legion supported the action of the Dominion Command in asking that draftee troops be used as reinforcements.

How Soldiers Feel

Chatham, Nov. 17 (Special).—Soldiers overseas certainly feel that Home Defense draftees should be on active service. Pte. Jack G. Scott of Chatham stated today, on his return from 18 months' service overseas in Italy and North Africa with the British 8th Army.

"For my part I feel they should certainly be in the thick of it, reinforcing the troops serving overseas," he said.

Another Chatham soldier, Pte. L. Reissner, who was wounded at Falaise, said his unit in France had few replacements for casualties, and most of them were not trained properly. "If we lost 20 men in one engagement, we went into the next just that many short," he claimed. "And from what I can learn, the situation has become worse instead of better since I was there."

Women Demand Move

The Soldiers' Friendly Club, a group of patriotic Chatham women who send cigarettes to soldiers and war prisoners, in a resolution to C. Earl Desmond, M.P. for Kent, demanded that Premier King send the Zombie army overseas.

"From our letters the men over there feel that Mr. King and the Government of Canada, are letting them down," the resolution states.

Included among the 21 women in the club is Mrs. R. Anderson, a British war bride and widow of Sgt. Rocky Anderson, killed in action overseas this fall.

Appeals to Sanderson

Stratford, Nov. 17 (CP).—The Stratford branch of the Canadian Legion endorsed a resolution asking F. C. Sanderson, Liberal M.P. for Perth, to support the movement urging the Government to make all trained draftees available for overseas duty.

Asks McNaughton Resign

Victoria, Nov. 17 (CP).—The resignation of Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton as Defense Minister was asked at a Canadian Legion meeting here last night after legionnaires had announced plans for a mass demonstration here next Sunday in favor of conscription for overseas service.

Pearkes Calls Conference

Vancouver, Nov. 17 (CP).—Maj. Gen. G. R. Pearkes, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Pacific Command, has called a conference of commanding officers in his command to consider all possible ways and means of accelerating recruiting among National Resources Mobilization Act infantrymen, command officials revealed in a statement released today.

Gen. Pearkes just returned from a conference with Defense Minister McNaughton at Ottawa.

Recorded Vote Sought

North Bay, Nov. 17 (CP).—The North Bay branch of the Canadian Legion has sent a letter to Dr. J. R. Hurtubise, Liberal M.P. for Nipissing, requesting him to support the movement for making trained draftee troops available for overseas service. He was asked to demand a recorded vote on the question at the special session of the House Nov. 22.

Canadian Newspapers Demand Army Re

OTTAWA JOURNAL

There of course, one complete, all-sufficient answer to Mr. King's speech of Wednesday night—that speech in which he tried to justify his refusal to send draftees overseas. It is that if Col. Ralston refused to accept such statements, if he thought them so worthless that he refused to remain longer as a member of the Cabinet, how can any of us rest of us accept them?

Oh, but says Mr. King, I will risk sending draftees if it becomes necessary. When will "necessary" arrive? Col. Ralston, who was overseas, as talked to the army, and saw its need, says that it has arrived, that is with us now—but Mr. King, who hasn't been overseas, who hasn't talked to the army there, says that Col. Ralston is wrong, and rationally drives Col. Ralston from the Cabinet, and put in his place a man who hasn't been overseas for a year.

Why? Mr. King toward the end of his speech, and after all his tortuous, specious excuses, gave the real answer. This:

"How can the difficulties would be in substituting conscription for overseas service for the voluntary system, no one knows. But every one who is honest with himself knows there would be genuine difficulties and that they might be very grave."

There's the truth. The truth that Mr. King's real reason for practically firing Col. Ralston and for withholding from our fighting men desperately needed reinforcements is in fear of Quebec. The Government takes its course, takes dictation, from a minority. It cringes before the thing that Mr. King's principal Quebec Minister implied in Quebec City last week. It is not obeying the mandate given it by the overwhelming majority of Canadians in a national plebiscite, and it is not using the authority given it by Parliament in Bill 80. It is weakly bowing before the outcry and threats of a minority in single Province. It is thinking, in short, of 65 seats in Quebec.

That, God help us, is what we have come to!

MONTRÉAL GAZETTE

Col. Ralston's recommendations rested, he made it clear, on two main foundations. One consisted of the actual conditions he found overseas and his estimate of the immediate need, corroborated by field commanders and high military authorities. The other was his understanding—and that of the vast majority of Canadians—of the Government policy as laid down by the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet. This was, to use Col. Ralston's summation, that draftees would be sent overseas "if there were need for reinforcements overseas and volunteers were not available."

Col. Ralston says that such a need now exists and that sufficient trained volunteers are not and cannot be made available in time to meet it.

Mr. King does not deny the need, but takes evasive refuge in the hopeful but unsubstantiated contention that additional volunteers can be raised by intensive appeals to draftees and others.

There can be no question of Government "when necessary" policy, as laid down when Bill 80 was put through as the Government's overtone of implementing the overwhelming "Yes" vote in the 1942 plebiscite. Mr. King himself told Parliament on June 10, 1942, that the Government should have the power to "take the necessary action at the moment the necessity to do so should arise."

While he declared that overseas conscription was not necessary at that time, he defined the conditions under which it would be imposed as "circumstances . . . which would render the use of conscription imperative, such, for example, as the maintenance of the necessary reinforcements for Canada's army overseas."

Canadians find it difficult and bewildering, if not impossible, to understand how the Prime Minister and his Cabinet supporters can deny that such circumstances, and specifically the need for reinforcements, have now arrived. They can only deduce that the terms by which the Government defines "necessity" and "imperative" are rooted in political expediency and wishful thinking, as against Col. Ralston's conception in terms of military urgency and adherence to past pledges.

It can only be imagined what they will deduce from Col. Ralston's further suggestion that the Government as a whole, in the secrecy of the Cabinet council chamber, went even further in evasion of the clear challenge to act—that it denied that the open commitments of the Ministry tied it irrevocably to impose overseas conscription under the circumstances now thrust upon it.

of conscience and pledged words follow as a corollary. . . .

The man who has just resigned as Minister of National Defense was convinced that the time had arrived when compulsion for overseas service was necessary. The Prime Minister takes the opposite view, and asserts that conscription for overseas service is not necessary in the existing circumstances.

There is only one thing to be said about the position at this moment and it is this: Col. Ralston has been Minister of National Defense, Ministerial head of the Canadian armed forces, and he has just returned from an extensive inspection of Canadian forces in the field in Europe. It was upon the results of this extensive inspection that Col. Ralston based his recommendation which was not accepted by the Cabinet, and which the Prime Minister now insists was faulty. The Canadian people must be left to form their own judgments upon the facts as they have been revealed.

EDMONTON BULLETIN

Col. Ralston was and is Canada's recognized authority on army organization. No one has questioned his experience or ability or judgment in this particular. His view should have been accepted unless it was shown to have been based on error—which as every thinking and observing Canadian knows is not the case.

But Col. Ralston's view was not accepted although there is no record of his facts being challenged. Instead, he was asked to resign and was immediately replaced by a man who was retired from the leadership of the army some months ago because of ill-health and incompatibility.

Canadians, therefore, are asking this:

Why was the advice of a competent, experienced Minister of high ability and integrity rejected in favor of the advice of a man whose disabilities were such, only a few months ago, that he was not considered fit to head Canada's armed forces?

Why has the Cabinet lost sight of the fact that the 1942 plebiscite was an overwhelming and imperative mandate for conscription for overseas service?

Why has the Government overlooked the plain and obvious truth that in a democracy there must be equal responsibility for all as well as equal privileges for all and that no small group of willful men can decline to make the sacrifices their brothers make voluntarily?

These are the real issues made even more clear by the statement of Col. Ralston. They are issues with which the Prime Minister has not yet seen fit to deal.

We have many more first category men than that who have been in uniform for years, presumably undergoing training. If they have not been trained, the people will want to know just what they have been doing.

VICTORIA COLONIST

This is no time for politics. Parliament, if it is to be true to Canada, must give a decision on the issue as honest as that already laid before the people by Col. J. L. Ralston. He threw political preferment out of the window, and this country will honor him for that. There are times when conviction must stand uppermost. This is one of them.

Prime Minister King has summoned Parliament. He is entitled to make his own explanation there, handicapped as it may be by the sycophant section of the Liberal press which insists upon politics first and the war second. The majority of all people in this country will put that order the other way around. They are today concerned that, above every and all partisan considerations, the right course be taken to support Canadians in contact with the enemy overseas. That is a must in Canada. Col. Ralston has convinced many people that there is only one way to do that, to use men who have been under training for going on five years at home.

Mr. King had that mandate from the people as early as April, 1942. He asked for it. He was given the authority, unconditionally. He did not use it. When the official report from the front was that the present policy was failing, Mr. King turned his back upon that and sought advice somewhere else. Now we are told by some that if Canada wants conscription Parliament will have to do it, that Mr. King won't.

FINANCIAL POST

Mr. King has it in his personal power to avoid the evil of an election that would divide the Canadian people in the midst of war on a question—overseas conscription—that has already been settled in a plebiscite. All he has to do when Parliament meets is to retire from the impossible position he took in his radio address.

Let him say that he now intends to carry out his promise of introducing conscription when needed (and Col. Ralston makes it clear that from the military viewpoint the need is here and now); let him ask for a vote of confidence in the carrying out of that policy, and he will receive so overwhelming a mandate from Parliament—and so powerful an endorsement from the people of Canada—as to settle this issue once and for all.

This is what Mr. King should do. Time will reveal whether or not he is actually prepared to take so bold a stand.

In the meantime the people of Canada may well ask what are the intentions of Mr. King's Ministers who shared Col. Ralston's views on conscription, but who seem, so far, to have lacked the courage to indicate their views publicly.



Two Toronto soldiers, Pte. D. Tillick and Lieut. T. L. Hoy, light up cigarettes as they wait for treatment of their wounds at a field dressing station in Europe. Both were wounded near Beveland. The censor has removed identifying marks on the uniforms of the men.

of developing circumstances, have to be reconsidered." What a hope for Canada!

OTTAWA CITIZEN

The Prime Minister's broadcast last Wednesday night included figures with reference to the strength of the present conscript army in Canada, drafted only for service where there is no likelihood of encountering the enemy. According to the figures supplied for the broadcast there are at present 59,000 drafted men in uniform. The total of fit men drafted from Quebec is 23,000. The total French-speaking draftees from all Provinces is 25,000. Statistics have shown, however, that the percentage of enlisted men from the Province of Quebec is substantially below any other Province's percentage. The Prime Minister's figures fail to account for the missing legion of fit men, neither enlisted voluntarily nor drafted.

HALIFAX CHRONICLE

Nobody in Canada believes Mr. Ralston to be anything less than a man of undoubted integrity. His judgment on matters military is commonly regarded as being as sound and well-based as that of any Minister could be. His report, in consequence, is bound to be taken by a very large number of Canadians as a plain statement of fact, outlining a plan which should be followed as an implementation of the "conscription if necessary" statement of the Prime Minister. On the other hand, the Prime Minister himself, and a majority of the Cabinet, obviously have not been convinced that the inevitable time has come when the NRMA recruits should be incorporated compulsorily in the General Service Force.

The best interpretation that can be put upon the situation as it stands is that there is an honest difference of opinion on the whole matter, and that the Prime Minister has the support of Gen. McNaughton in the view he takes.

Defense, but it prefers to risk the rather than votes, and Europe far away, while Quebec is near at hand. Accordingly, the faithful league who told the Prime Minister the truth was cast off in favor of one, new and untried, who told him what he wanted to hear. The impending crisis will not be weathered by Mr. King so easily that. The voice of public protest is only beginning to make itself heard.

OWEN SOUND SUN-TIME

The Prime Minister's hypothesis on which he based all his argument, was that Canada's navy, force and army are volunteer services. This is only a half-truth. It is true that many gallant men are serving in the three forces are, in the widest sense of the word, volunteers. But many, many others are half-conscripts.

All of the Canadians serving in the navy, air force and army are entitled to the esteem which is earned by a volunteer, because one of them was compelled to do his life on active service. But in all three services, knew that they did not volunteer for active service they would nevertheless be conscripted into a home defense army. That does not detract from the honor due them as volunteers. But it does destroy the whole validity of the Prime Minister's argument that there must be no conscription employed unless absolutely necessary. There has been conscription employed, but it has been a compulsion which has been only by our most patriotic and scientific men.

WINNIPEG TRIBUNE

While Ottawa despatches indicate that the Government does not intend to go before the House with a clear-cut proposal whose approval or rejection will constitute a vote of confidence, there is a probability that the question of overseas conscription will be raised out in the Liberal caucus before the House meets. Will Liberal Party meet the test? Mr. King's well-known political skill will enable him, in the light of the attitudes revealed in the caucus, to chart his course from there.

Members of the Liberal Party in the House of Commons are now confronted with the responsibility for making a momentous decision. Like Col. Ralston, many of these members have gone away and have shown extraordinary courage with the Government's policy of compromise and appeasement. Stark reality has now been

in politics—and intends to put the string to the bitter Ottawa meets the cry for help the Canadian soldiers with words, highly colored platitudes, and a recruiting appeal that is obviously aimed to save laggard Dominion from having to do anything approaching its fair share in the Dominion's war effort. . . . Gen. McNaughton has chosen to trade the confidence of the army he created for the smile of the Prime Minister who gave him a chance to "get at Col. Ralston."

WOODSTOCK SENTINEL-REVIEW
The deep fault in Prime Minister King's address on support for the Canadian Army overseas, other than his refusal to conscript Zombies, is the serious conflict in his statements. This conflict and other features of his address must have made him realize that he was dealing with considerable difficulty in altering the Government from the using storm of public opinion. If the voluntary system had not broken down, it would not be necessary, as the Prime Minister intimated, to have each Zombie individually spoken to, in an effort to get him to volunteer for general service. . . .

Prime Minister was quite right in saying that Canadians overseas have performed remarkable military service. All the world knows and says so. Such a fact, however, does not dismiss the need for trained reinforcements. It only makes it more compelling. The glory has been won. The want of reinforcements is present. It is a very pressing, present situation.

MONCTON (N.B.) TIMES
That Gen. McNaughton has said in his first address since assuming his cabinet post obviously expresses the policy of the Mackenzie King Administration, both in respect to reinforcements for our overseas forces and the future of the Zombies at home. It is by no means a policy that will enhance either the prestige of the Government or the reputation of the new Minister of Defense. Canada's soldiers on the Western front, according to authenticated reports, have most recently been and still are in need of reinforcements, but it is evident now that these battle-scarred boys will have to wait for Canadian relief who still have to be recruited and trained before being able to go into active service. At this time, the interests of our men on the fighting line are paramount, the question surrounding the Government's policy toward adequately equipping them with reinforcements is the least, most disconcerting indeed both for the fighting men and the people at home.

BRANTFORD EXPOSITOR
The matters stand Prime Minister and his Ministers must act. dare procrastinate no longer. must put aside impractical pretensions. They must forget political strategy and forgo party advantage. In place of these things must put the imperative military necessity of supplying in time in sufficient force, adequately equipped reinforcements for overseas. out this provision, the strength effectiveness of the contribution Canada's Army and the very lives Canada's soldiers might be placed less and criminally in jeopardy.

CHARLOTTETOWN (P.E.I.) GUARDIAN
The Prime Minister dwelt on the many attached to conscription. Which there be, who is responsible? Is it not Mr. King? Where one is on a footing, there is

no reflection. There is no ignominy attached to conscription in the Mother Country, or in our good neighbor, the United States, and need not have been here, and need not be even yet, had the Prime Minister the courage to shed the personal antipathy which he himself had.

MONTREAL STAR
Overseas, General McNaughton is remustering as Infantry men trained for other branches of the service, and there is no reason why the men so trained as draftees cannot be remustered and trained as Infantry to provide reinforcements at a later date. Raw recruits are of no use to General McNaughton now. He must rely on the volunteers enlisted in the first two months of this year and on the fully-trained draftees. There is no way out of that dilemma. The only answer to his problem is to send the trained draftees overseas as soon as possible and remuster the remaining draftees for retaining as Infantry or such other reinforcements as may be needed.

WINNIPEG FREE PRESS
This summary of the available facts places both the immediate and the long-term reinforcement problems in perspective. When Mr. King and Gen. McNaughton spoke of a recruiting campaign to solve the immediate problem, they could only be addressing their appeal to the group of 8,000 men who alone are capable of meeting the existing shortage. Recruits from outside this group cannot be prepared for battle short of several months, and, therefore, cannot be a factor in relieving the existing crisis. Col. Ralston stated definitely that all of the 8,000 are required. At the next stage he was equally clear that all of the second 8,000 would be needed to maintain the units from February until the rest of the draftees could be remustered. It must always be borne in mind that the need for the draftees, in Col. Ralston's judgment, is over and above all estimates of recruiting. From these statements, therefore, it appears that the House of Commons on the very day it meets will be confronted with a situation in which immediate action to send the draftees overseas would still leave a substantial period of time—say, from Dec. 31 to Jan. 22—in which, according to the estimates, the front line would not be adequately supported. According to Col. Ralston, every day the decision is

ST. THOMAS TIMES-JOURNAL
The calling of Parliament for Nov. 22 will provide the opportunity to the members of Parliament "to declare where they stand on the issue now before the country." This responsibility on the individual members is great—very great. No matter what the Government policy is, no matter where the Cabinet stands, no matter what is said in party caucus, it is the duty of every M. P. to stand up in the House of Commons and express his own and his constituents' opinion on the reinforcements issue. In our own riding of Elgin we are convinced that practically every person favors the sending of reinforcements to our men overseas forthwith, as Col. Ralston recommended. Therefore, we maintain, it is the duty of our duly elected representative to the Federal House, Wilson H. Mills, to present the views of his constituents clearly and forcibly to the House, and to vote accordingly.

QUEBEC CHRONICLE-TELEGRAPH
Humanity, let alone patriotism and sense of duty, should have prompted the Government to take prompt, vigorous corrective action, in accordance with the recommendations of the Minister of National

delayed would prolong and worsen the deficiency.

MOOSE JAW TIMES-HERALD
The nationwide broadcast by Prime Minister King Wednesday night will reassure the people of Canada that our armed forces will not lack full support on the fighting front, that needed reinforcements are immediately available but in quantity, and, what is of equal importance, in quality of manpower and training; and that, for the future, the enlistment problem of today will be solved in ample time to provide for the reinforcements that will be needed in the near future. Gen. McNaughton said: "The figures of the reinforcements now available show that we can safely count on some short period yet before there is danger of the situation becoming acute"; and Prime Minister King gave full assurance that the period would be utilized to the full to avoid the development and danger of any acuteness beyond that inescapable from waging total war to the utmost, as Canada has done for over five years.

SASKATOON STAR-PHOENIX
Canada must avoid anything that would disrupt the internal life of the nation. Conscription for overseas service will definitely be a disruptive influence, how serious we can only guess, but certainly no less serious than it was in the last war. It is unfortunate, but none the less true that, to many French-Canadians, conscription does not mean merely being sent overseas to fight. Rather, conscription has become to many French-Canadians, a symbol of Anglo-Canadian domination—a forerunner of the loss of their race, language and religion. It is in this context that the Canadian decision must be made. What would be the advantage of the immediate application of conscription for overseas service? In the first place, it would still an opposition to the Government far more dangerous to its political life than any advantage that might be gained from pursuing its present course. This is something which no Government worthy of the name would permit to influence its policy.

ST. CATHARINES STANDARD
The pressing need of reinforcements is above and beyond politics. The issue can no longer be kicked around, if a semblance of national unity is to be maintained. In a nutshell, the whole question revolves around the mind of one man, and that man is the Prime Minister.

STRATFORD BEACON-HERALD
Mr. King has now added his own appeal. The net result is the serving of notice on the Canadian public that, while our dwindling fighting forces are up to the waist in bloodstained mud and chilling water in Northern Europe, the party-minded Cabinet is up to its

VANCOUVER SUN
Prime Minister Mackenzie King took to the radio Wednesday night to say that the Zombies now have their last chance. They may either go active in sufficient numbers to fill the expected demand for overseas reinforcements or else they will be conscripted. They can take their choice. The opportunity to volunteer is still open, but not for long.

At least, that is what he seemed to be saying in his carefully phrased address to the Canadian people. That is the interpretation which his audience could place upon his words. It is what the audience wanted to hear and what it meant to expect. If he didn't mean that way, he is nevertheless stuck with it. And so he should be. Mr. King has an ingrained habit of indirection in the construction of his speeches. The implication last night was that he knew his remarks would be heard on both sides of the Ottawa River. He wanted to be gentle to Quebec, encouragingly firm to the reluctant warriors, and yet clear enough to be understood around the English-speaking family circle.

The earnest listener could not help but be struck by the Prime Minister's penchant for the high-wire style of oratory. It was as if he had one eye on the Government's duty in the war and the other eye on what the history books might print about his attempt to avoid coercing a strong minority race. As time goes on we hope Mr. King will become more conscious of the deadly peril to our boys on the fighting front where they are going hard, days and nights on end, ready to welcome any kind of help, voluntary or conscripted. Mr. King is fully alive to the political dangers of conscription in Canada, and he shows himself very allergic to the Quebec vote. But he must not sacrifice too much in vindication of the voluntary principle.

HALIFAX HERALD
Let it be clearly understood that this situation involves more than Col. Ralston's pledged word and his conscience; involved in it is the essential question of NEED—need for reinforcements. And having recognized this need (having been convinced of this need as a result of his overseas inspection), Col. Ralston felt it to be his duty to make the recommendation that has been rejected by his Cabinet colleagues. This, therefore, should not be represented as a situation in which Col. Ralston is arbitrarily keeping his pledged word and thereby satisfying his own conscience without regard to needs and conditions. The basis of it all is the need for adequate reinforcements, and questions

EDMONTON JOURNAL
It was "the glory of Canada," Mr. King exclaimed, to have those fighting its battles do so of their own choice. Those who have volunteered cannot be too much admired for having offered their services or for their great achievements. But when they need support in the field so badly, they are objecting vigorously to the retention of well-trained men at home who declined to follow their example. As was pointed out on Monday, the British, American and Russian armies are surely no less efficient than the Canadian because in those countries there is all-round conscription.

If we do as they have done, according to Mr. King, genuine difficulties "that might be very grave" would have to be faced. It is those of a political character that he has had and has now principally in mind, and there is no excuse for holding back because of them or of any others. Whatever the consequences within Canada, our armies in the field must be reinforced in the only way in which this can be brought about on an adequate scale. Mr. King should have had no hesitation in acting immediately upon the popular mandate he received two and a half years ago to enforce conscription for overseas service. In trying to defend as he did last night his continued refusal to take that step, he only made it clearer than ever how unwise and unjust has been the policy of his Government. The whole broadcast was a sorry one to be made by a man in his position. It was the most wretched performance of his long career.

CALGARY HERALD
It is evident that the Liberal leader is playing for time—to stall off radical action of the kind indicated until he can call an election on some other issue. In this hope he will be disappointed. The Canadian people, Liberals and Conservatives as well as men of other parties, will not forget his political cowardice on this most important of all issues of the day. Today he finds himself the target for denunciation from a people whom he continues to defy, and all his fine-spun arguments for the maintenance of national unity by the loquacious application of compulsory service and an unbalanced system of volunteer enlistment as between Provinces have proved a boomerang.

Canadians demand the all-out war efforts promised by the Government at Ottawa, but instead they are getting a war leadership permeated with politics and play for political advantage at the polls. They have shown during the past three weeks by their record-breaking support of the Victory Loan their determination to wage war to a victorious conclusion in the shortest possible time. They are determinedly opposed to further vacillation and side-stepping of an extremely grave issue by the politicians at Ottawa, led by Mr. King.

WINDSOR STAR
Mr. King reiterates his faith in voluntary recruiting, stimulated by pressure brought to bear on the draftees. This, of course, is a matter of opinion. We are still of the belief that not enough will volunteer to keep the ranks of our army filled. However, only time will tell. The Cabinet crisis has lessened the hope that the voluntary system will be sufficient. It has certainly given the men in the Home Defense Army the impression that they are not needed for overseas service, and no amount of eloquence on the part of the Prime Minister is likely to convince them to the contrary.

When Mr. King, however, starts to estimate the number of draftees who are now fully trained and available for overseas service, he quote figures which demand explanation. His estimate that only about 8,000 are so available is incomprehensible.

The moral issue is the great issue. It affects the people of Canada, who are becoming restless at the thought that political necessity may be allowed to interfere with the efficiency of their army. It affects the men overseas, who, bearing the brunt of battle in Italy and Holland, are resentful of the policy which holds available and potential reinforcements away from them for a political purpose.

But the moral issue was entirely ignored in Mr. King's speech. The Prime Minister devoted himself to a statistical defense of his position—to demonstrating that Canada had to continue to depend on voluntary service because his draftee army, by which he had set such store, on which he had spent some hundreds of millions, and to which he had pinned his political fate, could not be sent overseas because it was not fit to go.

It was a lamentably poor defense of an appallingly weak position, and it was not made any better by the Prime Minister's announced determination to keep his ineffectual draftees in uniform as "a potential ultimate reserve of requirements whose compulsory employment in any theatre of war may, in the light

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The subject who is truly loyal to the Chief
Magistrate will neither advise nor submit to
arbitrary measures.—JUNIUS.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1944.

Nation Puts Duty First

On the opposite page are the comments of 27 leading Canadian newspapers on the national crisis. With but three or four exceptions, they stand forth resolutely for sending trained reinforcements overseas immediately. But these comments, representing the opinions of papers of varying shades of political allegiance, give strident emphasis to one thing: Partisan politics must not be allowed to dominate the issue.

The sternest criticism that has been made of Prime Minister King in the present crisis focuses on his insistence in dealing with the shortage of reinforcements as a political problem rather than a matter of men's lives. Each timid step, every official word since the resignation of Col. Ralston has had the imprint of partisan manoeuvring. Across the nation the fear has grown that the reassembling of the House of Commons is one more trick from the Prime Minister's ample bag.

This will be judged by events. But, whether or not it is the intention, politics need not enter the issue if the Commons refuses to submit or be a party to it. In common with most newspapers, The Globe and Mail has urged that the members put partisan tactics aside and concern themselves wholly with relieving the desperate position to which politics has brought our army.

The members have before them the example of the former Minister of Defense. Col. Ralston was no less a party man than any of his colleagues. He was loyal to his party and to his leader until that loyalty came into irreconcilable conflict with the trust the army and the nation imposed in him. His duty lay beyond and above the interests of party. The issue being what it is, every man in the House must discharge his responsibilities on the same level.

The onus here is not on the Liberal members alone. Partisan manoeuvring is not to be condemned in the Prime Minister and ignored in others. Opposition groups have their responsibility in the matter. The Progressive Conservative Party is well identified as the conscriptionist party. That does not allow it any latitude to play for political capital, as C.C.F. Leader Coldwell has done in demanding a secret session.

The issue is well defined. The only consideration is support for our fighting men. There is an accumulation of evidence, most of it supplied by them, that they need the help desperately. The vital thing is that the House of Commons take steps to send it to them without another hour of unnecessary delay. It is of no matter who sends the trained draftees, or whether the Government does so willingly or under compulsion.

In the past fortnight party lines have been broken and trampled underfoot in every community by people who have been thoroughly aroused to the critical situation of the troops. This is accurately reflected in the protests and the appeals which articulate opinion has directed to the Prime Minister. The many veterans and servicemen's organizations, the I.O.D.E. and the multitude of women's auxiliaries which have raised their voices are not in any sense political. They have no partisan aspirations. They speak only as representative citizens aware of their obligations to those fighting for them.

It is as representatives of the citizens of Canada that the members of Parliament must deal with the crisis. There can be no confusion in their minds as between loyalty to party and loyalty to their obligations as defined by the will of the people. Any member who thinks himself insufficiently instructed has only to go back to the mandate his constituents gave him in the plebiscite. So guided, no time need be lost in debate. Prolonged discussion at this late hour would be little short of criminal.

People Should Instruct M.P.'s To Demand Reinforcements

In Ludwig's eulogy, in book form, of Mackenzie King, it is stated that the latter prides himself more on what he has prevented than on what he has performed.

What has he prevented?

1. He prevented the prohibition of the export of copper and steel scrap to Japan. Public opinion forced him later to stop this exportation.

2. He prevented the establishment in Canada in 1937 of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, which would have been of inestimable help to the British Isles in the Battle of Britain. Public opinion later forced him to accede to Britain's request.

3. He has prevented for 25 years a spirit of unity between the English-speaking and French races in Canada.

Tank Incident Recalled

4. Through his Cabinet he prevented the manufacture of tanks in Canada. Again public opinion forced him to commence the making of these tanks.

5. He prevented an investigation into the manufacture of army boots in Quebec.

6. He prevented the people of Canada from knowing the details of the sending of our sons to Hong Kong with neither sufficient training nor equipment to enable them to defend themselves, and so great numbers of them died. If these details had been known by the people of Canada, Mackenzie King never would have had the opportunity of again placing our fighting men in the straits in which they are today.

And now he is trying to prevent Canada from sending much-needed immediate reinforcements to her sons who are fighting and dying for her overseas.

It behooves the people of Canada to make sure, through their members of Parliament, that Mackenzie King is not allowed to stall again. He may try to have an election in

the hope that before the House meets again, if he is returned to power, which God forbid, the war would be more nearly won, and Canada to her shame might reduce her fighting forces. It would not be the first time that he has tried such a trick. He prides himself on being an astute politician. But nothing must stand in the way of immediate reinforcements.

The people of Canada must make it plain to their members of Parliament what is expected of them. The people of Canada, outside of Quebec, demand that immediate reinforcements be sent to our boys fighting overseas.

Inform Members

Call the attention of your member of Parliament to the advertisement placed by him in the English-speaking newspapers of Canada "Have You the Guts?" Have these members the guts to sacrifice their party to the saving of the lives of our fighting sons, or will they sacrifice the lives of their sons to their party? There is no middle road. We knew that, even without Col. Ralston's report.

A copy of the above-mentioned advertisement should be placed on the desk of every member of the Cabinet. What is emolument compared to the saving of the boys whom this Cabinet sent overseas to fight for us?

Surely in this our hour of trial we are not dependent upon vacillating office-seekers who value the holding of office above pride of self or of country. Let Col. Ralston form a non-party Government for the purpose of saving our sons overseas. We have elected a Parliament to look after our interests. Before your member goes to this special session of Parliament make sure that he knows what each and every citizen of Canada, outside of Quebec, expects of him.

"On your head, in your hands, the sin and the saving lie."

Toronto.

J. H. Gain.

In Case You're Interested

"The real trouble in Quebec is isolation — isolation not only from Canada but from the rest of the world. Quebec lives unto itself and if you were to put its position in a few words it would be, 'Why can't you leave us alone?' The answer of the civilized world would be, 'Germany will not leave any of us alone.'"

"We must face the fact that Quebec will vote almost solidly on the side to which it has been led by isolation. We on our part must vote on the side to which we are drawn by a full knowledge of the situation which disturbs the world and by a keen interest in the struggle. . . . We

must go our own way regardless of French Canadian opinion. We must strive to convince them that our way is right."

The above is an excerpt from an editorial, written not of the present reinforcement crisis, but of an earlier one, 27 years ago.

Readers may have difficulty in guessing its origin. It is from the Toronto Star of Dec. 7, 1917, which under the same ownership, today supports the voluntary policy of Prime Minister King.

It is passed along to the members of Parliament as advice, as good today as it was when given.



WILL-O'-THE-WISP

The Gazette

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Only with cutting is jade shaped to use; only with adversity does man achieve the Way. —Chinese

MONTREAL, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20.

THE PUBLIC WILL BE THERE.

A week of profound importance for the honor and vigor of Canada's war effort is now beginning. The opening of the special session of Parliament on Wednesday will mark the consolidation of a crisis which began many months ago and in many small ways. Looking back from today, it is striking to note how the issue has, by its own growing weight, burst through the resistance of the Government. At first there were no more than the scattered suggestions of individuals that all was not well with the reinforcement supply to Canada's overseas army. All these suggestions the Government brushed aside with silence or with aloof replies.

But public uneasiness on a matter of such close bearing upon Canadian families and of such

close relation to the effectiveness of the Canadian war effort could not continue to be remotely dismissed. The crisis broke when the Minister of National Defence, a consistent defender of the Government's manpower policy, himself went overseas to investigate conditions. The issue began to consolidate when, on his return, he postponed his scheduled press conference, and rumors came from Parliament Hill that the Cabinet was sitting in daily and heated debate.

These rumors hardened into facts when Col. Ralston resigned. Since silence would no longer suffice, the Prime Minister spoke to the nation in a radio address marked by singular hesitance and contradiction. Then the issue was dramatically set when Col. J. L. Ralston, in a prepared statement, practically accused the Prime Minister of misrepresentation and bad faith.

Now Parliament has been called, with Col. Ralston promising to be in his place. The Senate, at first omitted from the summons, is now to meet also, with the result that there will be a full Parliament, capable of dealing with any issue and with any legislation. The situation is full of possibilities, and of developments which are not easily foreseen, and which may not be in the power of the Government to control. Certainly no Canadian Parliament has ever met with public attention fixed more searchingly upon its proceedings. The weight and influence of this exacting public attention cannot be dismissed.

For whatever the intricate uncertainties of the situation may be, one thing is perfectly clear. The people have now outgrown the Government's methods of alternating arrogance with confusion. It feels keenly that there has been altogether too much irresponsible secretiveness to this entire issue. It welcomes the meeting of Parliament, but it will be very quick to perceive any attempt on the part of the Government to use Parliament as merely another means of continuing its characteristic manoeuvres. Having been so long subjected to high-handedness and evasion, the public is now interested only in truth and candor, in plainness and honesty, in realism and action.

RESERVISTS ARE VOLUNTEERS, TOO.

In the currently intensive debate on military issues, in particular how the need for overseas reinforcements is to be met, there is apt to be both public and private confusion over the status of units of the Reserve Army. In some quarters the confusion even goes so far as to lump them together with the Home Defence Army as men who volunteered for service neither in Canada nor abroad, who are serving at all only as draftees, and who, it is now proposed, should be despatched overseas as replacements.

This is quite wrong, and mixes up two entirely different and unrelated wings of Canada's military establishment. The Home Defence men are physically fit, fully trained conscripts. The Reserve Army units are made up of civilians who volunteer for part-time training and could not normally be used for combat service. The reservists are in no sense draftees. Their enrolment is as purely voluntary as the enlistment of Active Army soldiers for service anywhere.

The vast majority if not all of the reservists are neither suitable for active service nor eligible for call-up, because of being over or under military age, suffering from physical disability, being in the lower medical categories, or for other reasons.

Rather than being the butt of misunderstanding or of thoughtless criticism, the Reserve Army men are deserving of public approbation and encouragement. In a dogged, unselfish way they are performing an unspectacular, often dull and mostly thankless military duty. That duty is of community and national importance despite its apparently routine character. The reservists are maintaining the nuclear framework of the militia system which, through peace and war, is the foundation of an armed strength that can readily be expanded in times of national crisis.

Transfer to Infantry Disgusts Young Officer

Below are excerpts from three letters from a 21-year-old Canadian army officer written to his parents while he was at a training camp in England learning infantry methods after about two years in the Canadian Armored Corps, the latter part as an officer. His father is a veteran of the last war and lives in an Ontario town. At the father's request and for the protection of his son, neither name is being published.

"... It seems they asked for officers to volunteer for the infantry and only got 10. Consequently they looked on their list to see who had arrived in England on the last few drafts, and it turned out to be our gang. We were not asked if we wanted to go to the infantry—we were told bluntly that we were being transferred and there was just nothing that we could do about it. Naturally, we raised a stink, but they were definitely not kidding. We went as high as the brigadier, but nobody could do anything for us."

"I know that I am damned well disgusted. I don't mind going to France, Italy or any other place in the world to fight, but I want to go with an outfit I know something about. As far as that goes, I could be a Zombie back home in Canada, but, unfortunately, I chose to go active and be kicked around by a damned rotten Canadian Government in an army overseas where you can't do anything about it at all. If the Canadian Army wants to treat their officers like that, then I want no part of it, and I'd rather be a N.R.M.A. private back in No. 2 M.D., Toronto."

Concern for His Men

"I don't mind being shot at, but I'm not any too fond of 40 men following me out to do a job that I know absolutely nothing about. If they wanted me to be an infantry officer, why wasn't I trained as one

from the start instead of this farce of training us as armored officers and then when we've finished put us in the infantry? It's crazy, it's suicide, and I want no part of it."

"Six weeks to learn what it took the 1st Division fellows four years to learn. Go ahead, you figure it out, because we can't."

(This officer's father, an officer in the last war, pointed out that later letters revealed that the six weeks' training is made up of 5 1/2 days a week—a total of 33 days' training as an infantry officer.)

"I'm afraid I wrote you a rather bitter letter from—but it expressed my sentiments right down to the ground. I feel there is no justification for the way we are being kicked around and transferred to the infantry. I realize this is no way for an officer to talk, an officer who is supposed to set an example and obey orders he may be given, but I certainly feel we are being given a dirty deal and I know positively that the other boys share my sentiments. All I feel toward the army now is a bitter resentment, of the way we have been treated."

Principle "Burning Us Up"

"It would be impossible for you to know how we get to feel over our own arm of the service. And then to be yanked out before even having a chance to prove that you're good or bad as the case may be. It sure is heartbreaking. We all know how the infantry had taken the hard knocks in this war, but why wasn't that realized and taken into consideration before we were trained in the armored corps? It's the principle of the thing more than the method that gets us and is burning us up—that combined with the way we were conscripted."

"It's a good thing we all have a good sense of humor or we would all go wacky. . . . It seems too bad this had to happen all of a sudden, though we could see it coming and we know we won't be the last."

LETTERS FROM READERS

Open Letter on Reinforcements

The Right Honorable W. L. Mackenzie King,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

We write as a group of ordinary Canadian housewives living as neighbours in North View Court, having no common political or other affiliations.

Having read your statement concerning reinforcements for the Canadian Army Overseas, and also that of Colonel Ralston who has had the opportunity of studying the situation at first hand as it exists at present at the battle fronts, we are convinced that the need for infantry reinforcements for the Canadian Army Overseas is immediate and not several months hence. We therefore urge that the train-

ed N.R.M.A. men be sent overseas with no further delay.

Yours very truly,

ELIZABETH AISHTON
FRANCES ANNE ARBUCKLE
LILLIAN H. BEATTIE
V. H. BEATTIE
EDITH CALVIN
HELEN L. COLBY
G. FRANCES CRODDES
MARY HUTCHISON
IRENE H. INGHAM
EVELYN F. MCCARTHY
ANNIE G. MACGILLIVRAY
KATE AISHTON MERCUR
SUSAN S. PUTNAM
GABRIELLE D. ROLLAND
ALICE S. RUSSEL
MILDRED WIGGS.

North View Court,
Montreal, November 18.

National Military Service

Sir—I can imagine the owner of the Chicago Tribune, the notorious Colonel McCormick, rubbing his hands over Mr. Howe's speech in Chicago. He would not have to alter Mr. Howe's own words much to compile a headline like this: "Canada makes political issue of the lives of her boys Overseas."

The whole idea of Canada's voluntary army as such has been built up into a romantic dream, and sometimes stimulating, are not practical. At the same time, the word 'conscription' has been made into a term of opprobrium it does not deserve. Why don't we drop the word now, and use another term to describe what we, the Canadian people, want done? We want reinforcements sent overseas immediately. Why not call it national military service or something like that? These are times to reduce things to their proper value, and to do it fast! There is such a thing as over-simplification of issues, and this is not the time to think of that. This is an emergency, and the remedy, although long overdue, is at hand.

If, long ago, the French-Canadian people as a whole had been educated correctly regarding the truths about this war, they would not be enduring the state of confusion and resentment which exists in their hearts and minds today. The French-Canadian regiments are composed of as fine a lot of men as any in the world. It was so in the last war, and it is so now. Let us be more calm in our handling of this situation; and more firm. What is done cannot be undone; there is not time now for walling over past mistakes, or for hesitating over a national issue because of a minority misconception about the true facts of this war. Let us with one voice put national military service across, and do it now."

DORIS HEDGES

Montreal, November 17.

Col. Ralston for Premier

Sir—Mr. King, as Prime Minister, stands out as the man who must be primarily held responsible for the failure to introduce conscription.

Overwhelming pressure should be brought upon Mr. King to resign

and advise the Governor General to recall Colonel Ralston and ask him to form a Cabinet.

(Mrs.) SUZETTE BOGERT.

Westmount, November 16.

To the Prime Minister

Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King,
Prime Minister of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister: Apart from working very hard on the St. Antoine-Westmount Plebiscite Committee—and believe me, I was a "Yes"-girl—I have never taken any active part in politics, thinking, as many of us do, that it is a dirty business and a good thing to keep out of. However, when the results of said plebiscite (a direct vote of all the people on a measure submitted to them, as to determine a form of government) are blatantly ignored, then it is time for action.

I don't know how many of those telegrams from the War Department you may have seen—those ones beginning, "Regret to inform you that your—" but surely you must have friends whose heart has stopped for a minute at sight of one of those yellow envelopes, and have seen the anguish caused by the realization that the son, husband, father or brother represented by the impersonal governmental number won't be back. If a Canadian soldier has to be patched up and sent back into action three times, then there is certainly something wrong with our system of reinforcements and the people to whom these men belong cannot and will not stand for much more shilly-shallying and consideration of political expediency.

I cannot believe that the men of Quebec are shirking their duty—the record of the French regiments overseas is too inspiring a saga of courage to allow a right-thinking person to give credence to that idea. Surely the so-called zombies are suffering from poor leadership rather than from innate cowardice. It is increasingly apparent that reinforcements are desperately needed overseas and this situation can only be rectified by immediate and decisive action here and now. Our men need reinforcements—then let's get them over there, as many as possible and as soon as possible.

Canada's war record has been magnificent—but please, Mr. Prime Minister, don't let it be in spite of rather than because of our Government. I don't know anything about the intricacies and machinations of party politics, but I do know this—if there is anything that you can do to shorten this bloody war—and I use that particular adjective with feeling—and you fail to do it—then that political future about which you are reportedly so worried won't be worth a plugged nickel.

ALICE G. CIPRIANI.

Westmount, November 18.

CLAIM CARDINAL STANDS BEHIND CONSCRIPTION

Ottawa, Nov. 19 (Staff).—A stand for compulsion in overseas army service is reported here today to have been taken by Cardinal Villeneuve at a private luncheon Saturday in Windsor Hotel, Montreal.

The Cardinal late last week returned from a two months' fact-finding tour of the Western and Mediterranean fronts.

It is stated here that Cardinal Villeneuve spoke with the utmost candor and flatly advised his listeners that grave things were in the offing before the war is over, and that Canada must stand by the British and United States forces to the point of conscription for overseas.

Must Stand Together

He is reported to have key-pointed his views on compulsory service with a frank and insistent claim that the tolerant nations on race and religion must, at this time, for their own salvation and protection of their liberties, stand together to the limit.

War Services Minister L. R. LaFleche took the Cardinal to the meeting, even as he was in attendance on his Eminence at a meeting of military men on Friday, a few hours after he had flown in from the United Kingdom. At that meeting Cardinal Villeneuve advised that he had gone to the fronts to see for himself what was happening.

He was quoted: "I am not taking any attitude pro or con, but you cannot fight this war by condensing the horizon on this continent. The Nazi has got to be completely defeated or there will be no peace for our way of life."

Cardinal Villeneuve's attitude toward conscription was reflected in a sermon in Westminster Cathedral on Sept. 24 to a congregation of Canadian servicemen. He said:

"That spirit of sacrifice and devotion finds its highest expression in those who courageously have entered active service on land, on sea and in the air. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to you who are bravely rendering such admirable service to their country and to humanity in general."

Demanding Action on Draftees Corps Resolution Goes to MP's

Every member of Parliament has received from the Ontario Command of the Canadian Corps Association a copy of the resolution passed at the recent Corps convention, demanding that the King Government make the draftee army available for service anywhere. Mr. King should either enact legislation to make this possible, or retire from the political scene, the resolution declared.

In an accompanying letter over the signature of Stanley Harpham, Ontario president, it is pointed out that when Col. J. L. Ralston was dismissed from the Cabinet, "an honest and informed point of view was rejected in favor of a combina-

tion of dictatorial power and admittedly uninformed egotism." Such an attitude must not be permitted to determine the destiny of Canadian fighting men, President Harpham continued.

The resolution calls upon the King Government "to act according to the principles of our democratic system and follow the dictates and wishes of the majority of the people."

Report Draft Policy Rouses Men Overseas

Some Canadian troops in Britain are fed up, "disappointed and disillusioned" at the Government's failure to send the Home Defense Army overseas.

This was the statement of several

officers and men in a group which arrived home from overseas yesterday. For obvious reasons, their names cannot be used. Several of them said they "had been warned" by senior officers not to "talk about reinforcements," but declined to go further than that.

"The situation is disgraceful," said one of the officers. "Some of our boys in England have been back in action, wounded two, three and even four times when there are 70,000 trained men in Canada. They feel that anyone who comes through the bitter fighting of today is lucky, and that they are entitled to a chance for their lives."

"The main trouble is not with the men who are sent in to reinforce units as men. God knows they are hard-fighting, willing, brave, but they just haven't got the experience as infantrymen. They are transferred men trained as machine-gunners and artillerymen into the infantry in every battalion, not just my own unit," he said.

Resentment Reported

"You know the picture," said another officer. "I can't talk about it because of endangering my army career, but every one overseas is bitter and resents the zombie army being kept in Canada when it might well go overseas and give some of our hard-fighting men a rest."

Paying tribute to French-Canadian regiments overseas, another officer said: "They hate the zombies as much or more than we do. Such outfits as the Royal 22nd and Chaudieres have done a marvelous job and are still doing it, but they are getting tired of being constantly in action when they should be given relief."

"I've seen Major Conn Smythe's statement—we all have, over there," said another returned man. "He was quite right. Col. Ralston knows it and Mackenzie King knows it. Just wait until some of those lads get back from overseas and see what they have to say about the Government."

While all members of the returned party declined to discuss the "warning" they had received, one of them did admit "a senior officer from CMHQ" at London had "spoken to me."

Block Busters Hit Hard

All declared "Jerry hasn't shown any signs of quitting, but things are going well with us," and paid tribute to the air support. "The block-busters are simply awful," said Lieut. K. J. McGregor, Keewatin Ave. "But the things we liked to watch are the rocket-armed Ty-

phoons. They come in with a shrill, eerie scream and even we used to get a bit jittery, although we knew they were ours. They blew German tanks right off the roads, and we frequently saw Jerries jumping out of their vehicles and running like mad when they knew the Typhies were out. The pilots are simply marvelous marksmen with their rockets."

Lieut. McGregor, who injured a knee when he dived into a slit trench while "Jerry was being a bit nasty," was most impressed by the block-busting tactics of the air force. "They are terrible. I saw villages in Normandy knocked so flat that the infantry could hardly get through them. One of them we saw was just a mound of rubble, and we had to climb in and around the debris to advance."

Welcomed by Daughter

Lieut. McGregor, who enlisted in Montreal 4½ years ago and went overseas last year, was given a big reception by his 2-year-old daughter, Shirley.

Lt.-Col. J. K. Bradford, 477 Bayview Ave., didn't seem terribly impressed by the "buzzbombs." In fact, unless you "were right there, you didn't know very much about them." He was sent home after being in hospital for some months and said: "Where I was we didn't see any of them at all."

Lieut. J. F. Sutherland, 20 Whitehall Rd., didn't want to talk about anything, but said, "It's swell to be home."

Others in the party, which traveled aboard a ship with 500 war brides and their children, said the trip was "grand." "Officers and men alike got a big kick out of helping the girls and their children. It was quite warm coming across, and the Red Cross was simply marvelous when we arrived."

Fulford, Liberal M.P., Favors Conscription As Fairest Army Plan

Gananoque, Nov. 19 (Special). —

George T. Fulford, Liberal M.P. for Leeds, has advised members of Canadian Legion Post No. 92, that he is in favor of conscription. In answer to a communication recently sent, Mr. Fulford replied as follows: "I am in favor of conscription in spite of the fact that it proved a failure in the last war. I consider it by far the fairest, most equitable and surest way of raising an army or of obtaining reinforcements."

The Legion branch in its letter to Mr. Fulford asked the following question: "Are you in favor of immediately making available for overseas reinforcements the draftees called up for home defense, and will you pledge yourself to support this policy and demand a recorded vote in Parliament?"

Pressure Exerted

Hamilton, Nov. 19 (Staff).—Pressure increased during the weekend on Hamilton members of the House of Commons to make known their stand on the conscription reinforcement issue before the special session Wednesday. The first batch of 6,500 postcards signed by ex-servicemen belonging to units affiliated with the United Council of Veterans reached the three members, T. H. Ross, Revenue Minister Colin Gibson and Ellis Corman.

Also forwarded to the local M.P.'s were copies of a resolution urging overseas conscription passed at a meeting of next of kin of officers and men of M.D. 2 units held in Toronto. Mrs. E. Vaughan Wright, one of whose sons was killed and another taken prisoner at Dieppe, was among local women attending.

In a radio talk last night, T. H. Ross, Liberal M.P., announced his intention of voting for overseas conscription Wednesday even against a majority of his party if the facts laid before the House showed there is an immediate need for reinforcements and that they can't be obtained by the voluntary system. Reporting "a more sober attitude" on the matter in Ottawa, Mr. Ross attributed the furor in Toronto and Hamilton to "the rather hysterical outbursts of a certain morning newspaper in Toronto."

Lives Sacrificed

The East Hamilton member referred to recent items in The Globe and Mail intimating that the lives of men overseas were being sacrificed because of the lack of reinforcements, and declared not even Col. Ralston's statement substantiated that. Mr. Ross mentioned the Great War records of Federal Cabinet Ministers, several of whom have sons and daughters on active

service and one of whom had lost a son.

Mr. Ross said he would go to Ottawa with the Hamilton's "yes" vote in the conscription plebiscite in mind and that he would base his decision on the facts laid before the members.

A public meeting to discuss the conscription issue will be held in the music hall, Dundas, Tuesday evening. The Dundas branch, Canadian Legion, has sent a telegram to Ellis Corman, M.P. for Wentworth, asking him to announce his stand and urging him to press for a recorded vote in the House.

Defends French-Canadians

Vancouver, Nov. 19.—The word "conscript" to a French-Canadian means "a convict," Quebec Mines Minister Jonathan Robinson told the western meeting here of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. He implied that was why the other eight Provinces felt Quebec had not seen eye to eye on conscription.

An English-speaking Minister, Mr. Robinson was interrupted by boos and catcalls when he appealed for tolerance toward French-Canadians over the conscription issue. He declared Ottawa politicians had deceived Quebec for 25 years, and played with the Province as a political football.

Liberal M.P. Reticent

Cobourg, Nov. 19.—Members of the Canadian Legion of Northumberland County, through A. S. Miller, zone commander, held a conference at Brighton Saturday afternoon with William A. Fraser, Liberal M.P. for Northumberland County. Asked if he would vote in favor of sending the draftees overseas, Mr. Fraser said he was not prepared to commit himself until he attended the Commons session and saw what was to transpire. All county Legion branches have sent to Mr. Fraser a demand for action on reinforcements.

Behind Boys Overseas

Port Hope, Nov. 19.—Questioned by Legion members of Port Hope on his attitude toward sending draftees overseas, Frank Rickard of Newcastle, Liberal member for Durham County, declared himself today as being "100 per cent behind the boys overseas." However, Mr. Rickard did not say whether he would vote for sending the draftees overseas.

Awaits Information

Sudbury, Nov. 19 (CP).—Dr. J. R. Hurbutte, Liberal M.P. for Nipissing, said Saturday his stand on the conscription issue in the forthcoming session of Parliament would depend on information submitted to

QUEBEC SOON OPENS DEPOTS FOR RECRUITING

Montreal, Nov. 19 (CP).—Maj.-Gen. L. R. LaFleche, Minister of National War Services, said here tonight that with the organization he helped set up in Quebec last week "it is evident that it is possible to send overseas a good number of trained volunteers to maintain the French-Canadian units now in action when they will require reinforcements."

"More than ever, I am confident that French-Canadians will make it a point of honor to back up our brothers and sons who are on the firing line," he added.

"With reference to the problem of finding reinforcements for French-Canadian regiments overseas," he said, "I have passed three days at Montreal with the object of perfecting the organization needed to attain our objective. The first appeal will be made to men already in camps and trained; later we shall find it necessary to create a reserve of volunteers so that at no time will be French-Canadian regiments be threatened with a shortage of reinforcements."

Confers With Commanders

"While here I have had the privilege of conferring with Maj.-Gen. A. E. Walford, adjutant-general of the Canadian Army; with Maj.-Gen. E. J. Renaud, officer commanding M.D. No. 4 (Montreal); with Brig. Edmond Blais, officer commanding M.D. No. 5 (Quebec), as well as with their staff officers."

"I have also met the commanding officers of the different French-Canadian battalions and training camps in the Province of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. It is a pleasure for me to emphasize the spirit of collaboration they have demonstrated in our interviews."

"It is necessary to act promptly. Nobody among us ignores the fact that we ourselves must defend our traditions and insure our survival."

"Within a few days the entire question of reinforcements for overseas will be reopened. All with whom I have discussed the matter are convinced that when reinforcements are needed they will be available."

Recruiting Office

"As proof of the co-operation which is being extended, the association of veterans of the 22nd Battalion, Montreal branch, has offered immediately to open a recruiting office. Needless to say, that offer was accepted at once and with my heartfelt thanks."

"Other units, whose prestige is no less since Dieppe, Sicily and Holland, are proposing to assist in the same way. In short order recruiting offices will be opened in Quebec Province, especially for the benefit of volunteers willing to reinforce French-Canadian regiments overseas."

"Every one will understand the gravity of the moment. The appeal now goes out to those who want to be soldiers and who are proud of their race."

the House of Commons by the Government.

No Politics, Women Decide

Saint John, N.B., Nov. 19 (CP).—A resolution urging that home defense troops be sent overseas as reinforcements was passed unanimously Saturday at a meeting by several hundred women of Saint John and vicinity. Mrs. W. Arthur I. Anglin, presiding, said that "all political parties are represented here this afternoon, all women's organizations and all creeds."

It was felt, she said, that any resolution adopted would "carry more weight if there were no political discussions whatsoever. There are no politics where men's lives are at stake."

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The subject who is truly loyal to the Chief Magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures.—JUNIUS.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1944.

Politics and Human Lives

Parliament assembles this week for a session of fateful significance. It will be one of those very rare occasions in Canadian history when the soul of the people lies at the mercy of the legislators. Indeed, there has been no precise parallel, for never before has the nation been summoned to sacrifices for a vital cause with so great fervor and been brought under political subjection with such ardent pleas for faith. The test of trust has continued for five full years.

The people know why this session is called. It is not to deal with fiscal policies, the routine of office, the hundred and one slants which a party majority can give to the hundred and one big and little things that count in the measured tread of ordinary political expediency. The circumstances are grave beyond consideration of all these big and little ordinary things. The test of trust, after five crucial years, has become a test of honesty. Today there is widespread disillusionment. What, the people ask, have we for our confidence in promises? Where is the national equality we were assured, the fair and balanced effort we were led to expect from all parts of the country and all sections of people in total war, if we but waited and believed?

It is two months since Major Conn Smythe, home from war, lying wounded in a hospital bed, felt obliged to tell the people of the adverse conditions under which brave young men were battling and struggling for life in the war theatres. His statement was brushed aside at once by Government spokesmen and satellites as "politics." Major Smythe spoke again, giving sources of information that could not easily be denied.

Col. Ralston, the Minister of Defense, made no attempt at denial. Days elapsed. He went overseas and visited the troops. His report brought his resignation from the Government. He "came to the conclusion that the only practical relief for the urgent situation which faced us was to recommend that we draw on the trained N.R.M.A. infantry men (draftees) whom we are maintaining as potential reinforcements, and to have them on hand in the battle areas at the earliest possible moment." He could not get "any assurance that the Government as a whole considered that the Prime Minister's speeches ("not necessarily conscription, but conscription if necessary") committed the Government to this course. His successor, Gen. McNaughton, spoke against conscription, as did Mr. King.

Hundreds of letters from soldiers reached this office and many went to other newspaper offices. A handful were published telling the most tragic story in Canada's war history, of how the boys were being let down, were placed in the fighting line without sufficient training, were without needed reinforcements, wounded men compelled to return to the front without proper recovery.

These boys enlisted as volunteers. They do not lack courage. They don't lie when they write such letters.

The people of Canada who have been giving all they have and are, did not arouse themselves thoughtlessly. They have weighed Major Smythe's statement, Col. Ralston's report, and their boys' letters against the contradictory statements of the Government, and they have reached their conclusion. The members of Parliament are going to Ottawa knowing their constituents are angered by the way in which the Government has abused their trust.

Parliament's Duty: Decide Between Honor and Trickery

Prior to the declarations of war in 1939 Great Britain and France had adopted a policy of appeasement or compromise with Germany in the interests of the maintenance of peace. When Germany invaded Poland, however, a situation arose under which any further compromises with Germany could only be regarded as collusion and the abandonment of the normal standards of honor of a nation, and war was declared by Great Britain and France on Germany, though these nations were aware, owing to their unpreparedness for war, that this declaration might prove disastrous and terminate their very existence as nations. In this crisis they acted as honorable nations, irrespective of the consequences, and France has since paid the full penalty of her gallant and honorable action.

We, in Canada, had the option of remaining neutral in 1939, thereby protecting the lives and interests of our citizens, and following the policy adopted by Sweden and Elze, but we unanimously chose the honorable course and joined Great Britain, France and our sister Dominions in war against Germany, and with the publicly announced intention of waging this war to the fullest extent of our power in men and material.

Canadians Amazed

It was therefore with horror and amazement that the average Canadian in this vast country of ours subsequently learned that our leaders had no intention of waging war as promised, to the fullest extent of our manpower, but had compromised with Quebec, and assured her political leaders that war would be conducted on the unsound principle of volunteer service. In view of Col. Ralston's recent disclosures regarding adequate infantry reinforcements—a matter inseparable from the success and welfare of our men in battle—it is obvious now that this compromise with Quebec is in the same category as any compromise with Germany over Poland, and cannot be entertained by any honorable nation. As Parliament is to assemble to discuss the question of

reinforcements under a volunteer system it would be well to examine this system again and its suitability for war.

This system of service was introduced by a British Government years ago to meet the requirements of waging a minor war of a punitive character, such as those on the Northwest frontier of India, or against the natives of South and Northeast Africa. It has never been recognized by the military authorities of any nation as a suitable method of waging war against a powerful adversary, and these authorities are agreed that the war in South Africa could have been terminated in one year instead of four with 50 per cent less casualties. If it had been waged on a compulsory instead of a voluntary basis.

Subsidizes the Shirker

Military authorities have also condemned the volunteer system as unreliable in war, as the supply of reinforcements rests entirely on the goodwill of all the people of a nation and beyond the control of the Government. In the South African and 1914-18 wars the volunteer system broke down, causing unnecessary loss of men's lives, and there is no possible reason to assume that it will not do so under the exceptionally heavy stress and strain of this war. The authorities of the great military powers have condemned the practice of waging war under this system as one especially wasteful of men's lives and jeopardizing final success, and the three great naval powers of the world, Great Britain, United States and Japan, have also recognized this fact. This system, moreover, is one that is fundamentally unjust, as it penalizes the patriotic man and subsidizes the shirker.

All the members of our veteran associations have seen with their own eyes on actual battlefields the weakness of a volunteer system, and have unanimously condemned it as one wholly unreliable and unsatisfactory in dealing not only with the adequate supply of reinforcements, but with every article of war required by our fighting services (vide Scarborough munition factory's frantic appeal for 900 workers).

Col. Ralston has recently returned

from a visit to our fighting fronts. He has consulted dependable and responsible officers in the field who are undoubtedly in close touch with the operations now in progress, with those that will take place in driving back Germany's advanced forces protecting the positions she intends to hold till the last (such as the Siegfried Line), and who are also aware of the bloody battles and enormous casualties that will be encountered in breaking Germany's final resistance. Col. Ralston is also aware of the number of reinforcements we have overseas and those subsequently available for service from Canada and he has stated emphatically that our existing reinforcement system cannot meet the demands for the replacement of casualties which our Canadian forces are liable to suffer.

What Will Mr. King Do?

Mr. King, the only Prime Minister in the British Empire who has not visited our forces on any fighting front, intimated in his recent broadcast that he is not prepared to accept the views of the great powers in waging war; he is not prepared to accept the unanimous opinion of the veterans who have fought in war under a volunteer system, and he is not prepared to accept the most recent and authoritative advice of his own Minister of Defense, Col. Ralston, or chief of the general staff, Gen. Stuart. Unless Mr. King has changed his views overnight he has summoned Parliament to receive a vote of confidence or endorsement of his stand on the volunteer system of waging war, apparently on the basis that the views of Quebec on war are of greater importance to Canada and our allies than the success and welfare of our soldiers in battle.

It will therefore be the responsibility of Parliament to decide at the coming session whether our future conduct of the war is to be one consistent with Great Britain and France's known standards of honor or one of trickery and deceit toward our own soldiers and those of our allies.

J. H. Elmsley.
Toronto. Maj.-Gen. (ret.).

MONTREAL M.P.'s

The current issue regarding overseas reinforcements and the calling of Parliament to deal with the problem, at its special session opening tomorrow, has prompted many citizens to write members of the Cabinet and their local Members of Parliament about it. To assist those who may not be familiar with the names of their local Members, following is a list of M.P.'s for Montreal Island ridings:

Abbott, Douglas Charles (St. Antoine-Westmount)
Bertrand, Hon. Ernest, K.C. (Laurier)
Bonnier, J. Arsene (St. Henry)
Claxton, Hon. Brooke (St. Lawrence-St. George)
Cote, Paul Emile (Verdun)
Denis, Azellus (St. Denis)
Eudes, Raymond, (Hochelaga)
Fauteux, Gaspard (St. Mary)
Fournier, Sarto (Maisonneuve-Rosemount)
Healy, Thomas P. (St. Ann)
Jean, Joseph, K.C. (Mercier)
LaFleche, Hon. L. R. (Outremont)
Marier, Elphege (Jacques-Cartier)
Rose, Fred (Cartier)
Whitman, Frederick P. (Mount Royal)

Letters to any member should be addressed, House of Commons, Ottawa, while the House is in session.

Parliament is going to meet the Ministry amid a national atmosphere of dissatisfaction and determination. The members must realize that no act of any Government can undo the wickedness that has been foisted on the nation by failure to do all that was possible to protect the lives and limbs of the boys who went forward on the call without faltering. They must know that in this grave crisis any tricks of Parliamentary procedure, any evidence of political cunning to turn a sharp corner will be treated with the utmost contempt in this nation's heart. Any member, any party leader, any Prime Minister, any one who fails to take the proper course at once should heed the warning which has come from the highest court, that of public opinion.

The issue is clearly one of human life. The honorable course to be taken is clear. The members are informed. We do not think they have less heart than their anxious fellow-men. This is a moment for them to show their stature and serve their fellows without fear or favor.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Open Letter to Premier

Sir.—Very soon you are to demand a vote of confidence from the House of Commons, on the issue, foremost in the minds of all those who have relatives in this war.

As the mother of three sons in the services, I plead with you to write off past mistakes, and begin again. It is said of you, that you would wish to go down in history, as the "greatest Canadian Prime Minister." Before it is too late for such an epithet, do not lose sight of the real issue:—Are our troops to be adequately reinforced—or not? The choice is obviously between the 8,000 out of our expensive 70,000 conscripted army in Canada (and why there are so few considered trained after four years, will have to be explained some day) or raw recruits (not yet enlisted). Another question arises—Why is six months the figure given, as to the length of time it takes to fit youth for battle? Surely it takes longer than that.

In the meantime our offensives are being held up, and our boys are facing the knowledge that there are no statesmen at home—only politicians.

Surely an adroit politician, as you admittedly are, must see the writing on the wall. All these men overseas can think, as well as die. It takes true greatness to admit to failure, so before it is too late, change your policy now. Cease to pander to rabid politicians and office seekers. You insult Quebec. If you knew more of the real people of Quebec, you would realize that the spirit of sacrifice evinced by the French-Canadian troops, now in action is alive.

But in the meantime, face the facts, that our troops need to be backed up right now. Change—and there is still a chance that posterity may call you great.

MARJORIE BURKE ATKINSON.
Westmount, November 20.

Another Letter to Mr. King

Sir.—We parents who have cheerfully and proudly sent our sons overseas, many of them never to return, have for five years watched your squirmings and dismay. You made a pre-election promise that you must know now you had no authority to make. As a result of the costly plebiscite taken two years ago, it was conclusively proved that your promise was a mistake. The shackles were taken off and you were forced to move. You got a plain answer and the baby was left on your doorstep. You held your head high, hoping it would conveniently fade away and die. But it didn't die. Colonel Ralston's report on conditions overseas has brought it back to life, and here it is again, lusty and clamoring for attention.

A few months ago the serious Montreal Tramways strike was quickly settled when your Government showed enough firmness to issue an ultimatum that the Government was taking over operations. Was there any sign of disobedience to that order, or was any sabotage attempted? No, even the strikers realized that they needed someone to make up their minds for them and they welcomed the settlement. You would have had the same success if you had exercised the powers given you by the overwhelming affirmative vote of the plebiscite.

I don't think the big majority of the people of this province wish to be bribed. They wish no more than equal privilege and equal sacrifice, and would, despite the howling of the extremists, willingly support any action your government might find it necessary to take, when parliament meets on the 22nd, to provide quick and adequate relief and rest to our gallant boys overseas.

ALEX. MUNRO.
Montreal, November 18.

A Matter of Honor

Sir.—As a self-respecting country, Canada has surely suffered sufficient mortification from a Prime Minister resorting to pitiable tactics in the hope of evading a duty which lies sun-clear before him. It seems that in Mr. King's political code there is no room for the honorable discharge of an obligation to implement the will of the majority as expressed in a nation-wide plebiscite instituted by him.

Will our parliamentary representatives at the forthcoming session of the House of Commons align themselves behind a leader who refuses acceptance of the grave responsibility

of reinforcing our troops overseas, or will they consider, while there is yet time, where their loyalty belongs?

Is it due to the men who are fighting, dying and enduring beyond our capacity to imagine; or do they owe it to a cynical government led by an astute political appeaser?

The choice is for them to make. The urgency for immediate reinforcements to be sent to the army overseas can no longer be denied; it has passed far beyond the stage of debate even for those who are masters in the art of evasive concealment. Upon the outcome of the coming week's sittings in the House of Commons depends whether Canada, at this perhaps most supreme hour in the world war, will uphold her army in the field and her honor in the eyes of the United Nations or if, as a nation, she will stand condemned of breaking faith with the living and the dead.

ELSIE REFORD.

Montreal, November 18.

NOVEMBER 21, 1944.



EVERYBODY OUT OF STEP BUT OUR WILLIE

The Gazette

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No human genius has yet conceived an engine to compare with his own living body.

—Anon.

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21.

ALLIED ARMIES CRUSH AHEAD.

The sheer weight of the massed armies and the superiority of their equipment being hurled against the western defences of Germany are beginning to tell. Geilenkirchen, the northern hinge of the Nazi line, has fallen to the combined hammerings of the British Second and the American Ninth and First armies. Across the plain stands Cologne, the great western communications centre of the Reich that has been pounded relentlessly from the air and amidst whose ruins the Nazis are likely to make a fanatical stand in defence of the Rhine.

In the centre of the 450-mile line Metz is encircled by the American Third Army; the last escape gap to the Saar Valley is reported to have been closed, and the streams of Nazi military refugees fleeing destruction have ceased. Far to the south, at the other anchor of the German line that covers the whole western face of the embattled Reich, the French First Army has captured Belfort, the historic and strategic town that guards the vital gap opening into the Rhine Valley.

Thus Germany's thirty-mile-deep defence zone is breached at three main points in the system. And between these breaches town after town has given way before the tremendous pressure of the six allied armies whose forces are spilling over the frontier. On the outcome of the battles being fought at this moment along the Rhine depends the length of the war; they have begun well, perhaps even better than could have been expected, but the tasks confronting our arms are still tremendous beyond comprehension.

The Germans have now indicated that the war in the west is their main consideration; elite divisions are moving from the eastern front to meet the challenge from which there can be no retreat except in collapse. For the last chance that Germany now holds is successful defence on the Westwall. She is favored by the weather, by her short interior lines of supply and communication, and by the fanatic determination of her people to hold the invaders of her "holy" soil to the west bank of the Rhine.

But if the Allies, with their superiority of armor and mobile forces, can consolidate the breaches and effect penetration of the Saar and the Ruhr they will find the rewards high. For if the arsenals of Nazi production can be obliterated Germany's lifeblood will be cut off, and a repetition of the tactics that liberated France will chop up the Wehrmacht and with it the German home guard in a fast-moving war of manoeuvre.

But that lies in the future. Today siege warfare in all its grimness is battering at the Nazi gates. The four American armies with the two British and French armies on their flanks, more than three million men, are locked in deadly struggle with a determined enemy amid conditions that would stagger the stoutest hearts. That the Canadians are not with them in this greatest assault is only because they themselves have concluded an honorable chapter in the epic that is being engrossed in history.

The Scheldt campaign was by all odds among the bloodiest fighting of the war. Between Antwerp and Zeebrugge the First Army met with resistance that observers have termed more desperate than at Caen or Falaise. The liberation of the Scheldt is recognized as a Canadian epic. The Canadians are now enjoying the rest they deserve, but they will once more take their place in the line beside their comrades of the United Nations. When that time comes there will be casualties, and the reinforcements to replace them must be available.

GAMBLING ON THE WAR'S LENGTH.

Behind all the discussion of the reinforcement problem by the Liberal Government at Ottawa there is a background of indecisiveness based on the eager hope that the war is near its end. From this hope stems the Government's readiness to temporize and curtail rather than to act with speed and thoroughness. This confidence that the war is near its end obtrudes itself from time to time in partial explanation of the Government's adherence to its so-called voluntary system of overseas military service.

We have heard one member of Mr. King's Cabinet tell an audience in Chicago that the conscription agitation in Canada is not due to any real need for reinforcements but to a desire to make conscription an embarrassment for the Government. Last Saturday this same theory was expressed on Canadian soil by another member of the King Cabinet, who declared that the war is won, and that the present "grave fanatical explosion" in favor of compulsory overseas service is merely a political manoeuvre by the Government's enemies.

Three strong difficulties stand in the way of anyone who would feel disposed to take seriously the Government's suggestion that the war situation is such that the reinforcement need is not really urgent.

In the first place, the hope for an early end of the war may well prove a delusion. A backward glance in any newspaper file will give innumerable instances of confident predictions, often made by those in high places, which have failed to be fulfilled by realities. It will be noted that none other than Admiral William Halsey, surely an eminent and worthy man, declared that 1943 would "bring complete, absolute defeat to the Axis." Now he declares: "Only God knows."

It will be noted also that none other than Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower expressed his assurance last December that the war would end in 1944. Now, with only some six weeks of the year remaining, Gen. Eisenhower has sent an urgent appeal to munitions workers to turn out ammunition, especially artillery shells, in vast numbers, as the task of breaking some of the German defences has been delayed by ammunition lacks.

Indeed, a military accounting at this hour, though it provides ground for sober confidence, gives little justification for a lessening of effort. There is no escaping the plain fact that the western defences of the Nazis still show a vigorous tenacity, despite the breaching of the Siegfried Line last September. Then there is the fact that the Russian steamroller has yet to pass over Nazi-held Warsaw. The Nazis, too, are still entrenched in Norway; while Gen. Sir Harold Alexander has conceded that the Italian front is practically stalemated. In considering those who proclaim too readily that the war is at its end, it is well to consider whether the wish is not the father of the hope.

In the second place, the Government's implications that the war is practically over introduces a distinct element of risk into its manpower policies. In scaling its reinforcement supply on lives of the fighting men against an early close of the hostilities. On this point Col. J. L. Ralston was definite in his statement. "I considered that if we were to be fair to our fighting men," he said, "we could not afford to take chances on . . . these uncertainties." But the Government is apparently willing to take these chances, and is thereby risking the welfare of those to whom it owes most.

In the third place, the Government's tendency to count on an early end of hostilities has created an atmosphere of indecision and restriction at a time when the utmost in enthusiasm and effort is called for. Such hints from those in authority do not provide this country with that inspiring leadership which it has surely the right to expect.

NOW IT SHOULD BE TOLD.

It is expected that at the forthcoming session of Parliament, Prime Minister King will table the correspondence leading up to the resignation of Hon. J. L. Ralston as Minister of National Defence.

In our opinion it would serve the public interest if this correspondence was amplified or supplemented by including all documents bearing upon the retirement of the Hon. A. G. L. McNaughton, former commander of the Canadian Corps, now Minister of Defence and Colonel Ralston's successor.

At the time of Gen. McNaughton's retirement, it was deemed advisable by the Prime Minister and the leaders of the different parties in the House of Commons, whom he called into conference, to keep the circumstances surrounding Gen. McNaughton's retirement secret for military or perhaps diplomatic reasons.

But surely with the return of Gen. McNaughton to active political life now in a position which in many respects is more onerous, exacting and responsible even than that of commander of the Canadian Army, no sufficient or adequate reason can be put forward to hold from the public any longer the reasons for his return to Canada, and his retirement from the leadership of the Canadian Army.

Parliament should know what were the factors which disqualified Gen. McNaughton as Canadian commander overseas and to what extent, if any, they affect his position as head of the defence department, acting in what the Prime Minister has described as an "expert" capacity.

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PARLIAMENT MAY HEAR MAYNAUGHTON THURSDAY

The Vancouver Sun

VANCOUVER, B. C., NOVEMBER 21, 1944

PRICE 5c

Officers Face Probe Over Description Remarks

ZERO HOUR IN OTTAWA

OTTAWA, Nov. 21.—A "just - before - the - battle - Mother" atmosphere hangs over Ottawa today.

There is still a definite paucity of real information as to what is going to happen tomorrow.

The Members are trickling in and the snow is trickling down and it's a depressing set-up.

Today's special rumor is that the financial interests of Montreal and Toronto are intriguing to replace King with Hon. J. L. Halsey or Hon. J. L. Ralston and split the party.

They don't want a continuance of the King government's social legislation policy, it is alleged.

Dramatic Turn in Controversy Over Reinforcements for Army

Developments that may rock the forthcoming session of Parliament on reinforcements for overseas came fast today.

It was revealed in Ottawa by Norman MacLeod of British United Press that a major investigation and possible court-martial may follow statements by high-ranking officers of the Sixth Division showing that they differed with Defense Minister Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton over the policy of obtaining men by the volunteer system.

The split between heads of the division, including Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, and the Defense Minister was clearly shown at a conference called in Vancouver Monday by Gen. Pearkes.



MAJ.-GEN. G. R. PEARKES, VC among Home Defense troops in B.C., was doubtful of success.

Asked how he planned to get the new recruits, Gen. Pearkes said this: "God only knows. But we're going to have a try anyway. We've had a recruiting drive on throughout the summer, and it's hard to devise new methods."

The officers' interview was regarded here as a major breach of Army regulations and was recognized as bringing at least one important group of army officers in open conflict with Defense Minister Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, who favors giving the voluntary system a "fair trial."

Ranking officers directly under Gen. Pearkes stated at this conference that Home Defense men in their commands would not go overseas unless told to by Ottawa.

Another indication of the difference of opinion came from Gen. Pearkes on his return to Vancouver from a conference with the Defense Minister at Ottawa.

Gen. Pearkes, who had heard the new Defense Minister's plans for getting volunteers and who had gone through an arduous campaign previously in an attempt to get them from

Tories Would Prolong Session

OTTAWA, Nov. 21.—(CP)—Gordon Graydon, Progressive Conservative House leader, said today in a statement that a party caucus this morning had "quickly decided that reinforcements for the troops overseas must be dispatched at once and that the Home Defense Army should be made available for that purpose without risking a single day's delay."

The interview was given at a press conference called by Maj.-Gen. Pearkes, VC, general officer commanding the Pacific Command, preliminary to a meeting of the Division officers called to discuss the recruiting problem.

Discussion Prohibited

Observers said the development is the most dramatic turn in the controversy over conscription for overseas service since the resignation of Col. J. L. Ralston as Minister of Defense.

It was the first time in the history of the Canadian Army that service officers have gone on record publicly as disagreeing with the policy of the government or the Defense Minister they serve.

Public discussion of government policy by army officers is expressly prohibited by army regulations.

Disregard of this fact by the

B.C. officers was viewed in official Ottawa circles as creating one of the most serious situations in army discipline which authorities have ever been called to deal with.

Government sources were not immediately prepared to say what the results would be.

They did not attempt to minimize the seriousness of the situation and promised there will be "developments" during the day.

Gen. McNaughton is expected to issue a statement shortly and there are hints that there will be

a full-dress departmental investigation and possibly a court martial.

Coast Officers Stand Backed

OTTAWA, Nov. 21.—(CP)—The Ottawa Citizen said today that officers of the Regiment De Hull who formerly served on the West Coast with Home Defense troops, agreed with the statements expressed by a group of high ranking army officers at Vancouver that draftees would be "ready to go" once the government issued orders for overseas service.

EFFECT ON COMMONS

It is agreed here that the statements of the Pacific Coast officers will profoundly affect proceedings at the emergency session of Parliament opening tomorrow.

The session was called to consider the conscription and overseas reinforcement issues.

The possibility is recognized among government and Opposition Members of Commons that despite the government's disinclination to hold a general election at the present time, there may be no other way to solve the controversy.

The interview given by Sixth Division officers was held just before the officers went into private conference at Vancouver with Maj.-General G. R. Pearkes, Commander-in-Chief of Pacific Coast defense, to discuss speeding up enlistments of Home Defense troops for overseas service.

The officers expressed the conviction that there is little hope of obtaining volunteers for active service from the ranks of the draftees and that the men are waiting for the government to order them overseas.

PEARKES UNPERTURBED

When advised of reports of an impending investigation of Monday's news conference, Gen. Pearkes refused comment, but he appeared unperturbed.

Although he himself remained silent during Monday's meeting, it is assumed that the General shares the view of his officers that the bottom of the volunteer barrel has been scraped clean.

His previous statements indicate this, as does the fact that he went so far as to allow the press interview at which the officers aired their own opinions.

"SO MANY TIMES"

Further, a statement issued today from the General's office discussing plans for the implementation of Gen. McNaughton's policy states that the officers "realized the difficulties there would be in overcoming the prejudices of men who have been appealed to so many times."

Gen. Pearkes has, since Canada has been at war, championed the cause of the active army and appealed to Home Defense troops in Pacific Command to "go active."

"WORTHY OF UNIFORM"

Since the invasion of Europe he has given new emphasis to the need for reinforcements, strengthening his appeals to non-active men in his command.

Last April in addressing members of the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers at Victoria, Gen. Pearkes declared that "no man is worthy to wear the khaki uniform unless he is willing to wear it anywhere, to give 100 percent service."

"I am pleading with home defense soldiers to go active in order that we may finish the war this year," Gen. Pearkes said at that time.

TRIQUET'S VISIT

Following this appeal a whole regiment of former Home Defense soldiers paraded before Gen. Pearkes at Gordon Head as an active service unit.

This was a unit of a brigade which proceeded overseas.

Gen. Pearkes was joined in that campaign by Major Paul Triquet, VC, hero of the war in Italy.

As a direct result of appeals made by these two VC winners 2000 Home Defense troops turned active in the month of June in Pacific Command.

Reports have also come from England that a group of the 13th Brigade under Brig. H. S. Malkin is anxious to get into combat.

Most of the men in this group were former Home Defense troops who signed for active service after being addressed by Gen. Pearkes in Vernon.

McNAUGHTON WAITING

OTTAWA, Nov. 21.—(CP)—Defense Minister McNaughton said today that until he had "full knowledge of all the facts and circumstances" he could make no comment on statements in Vancouver last night by a group of high-ranking officers of the 6th Division that the voluntary system of overseas enlistment would not work.

Gen. McNaughton said in a statement that he expected to receive a "full report" on the officers' statements, made at a press conference, during the day.



TACKLING REINFORCEMENT QUESTION—Four high-ranking officers of the Sixth Division are pictured at a conference held Monday which has brought a new and spectacular turn in the conscription crisis. At the meeting called by Major-General G. R. Pearkes several

officers absolved home defense troops of all blame in the problem of securing overseas reinforcements, placing the responsibility on the government. From left are Col. H. A. Francis, Brig. J. F. Preston, Brig. T. Musgrave and Brig. R. H. Beattie.

Individual Appeal to All Home Defense Men

Method of attempting to obtain overseas reinforcements from Pacific Command Home Defense troops through individual "approach" by officers to each man was decided upon by high-ranking Sixth Division officers conferring in Vancouver Monday.

Full realization by the officers of "the difficulties that there would be in overcoming the prejudices of men who had been appealed to so many times this year" marked the important parity, according to a statement released by Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, VC, general officer commanding in chief, Pacific Command.

Maj.-Gen. Pearkes said that "no attempt will be made to appeal to large gatherings" of troops.

PEARKES' STATEMENT

The statement issued from his office follows:

"Following the conference of senior officers held in Vancouver on Monday, Major-General G. R. Pearkes, VC, CB, DSO, MC, GOC-in-C, Pacific Command, announced that plans had been considered to implement General McNaughton's policy of obtaining reinforcements for the Canadian Army Overseas by voluntary enlistment from among the trained NRMA soldiers in the Pacific Command.

"General Pearkes stressed the urgency of the requirements and stated that there must be a great increase in the numbers volunteering than had been evident since General McNaughton's appeal was first made, if the demand is to be met in the short time that is yet considered available.

"Many valuable suggestions were put forward by the different officers commanding, who were fully alive to the urgency of the need, but also realized the difficulties that there would be in overcoming the prejudices of men who had been appealed to so many times this year.

"The men will be approached individually by their own officers and no attempt will be made to appeal to large gatherings.

"General Pearkes stressed that no coercion is to be used and that all will be told of the need of their services and the practical benefits to their own future by becoming volunteers and enjoying the full opportunities of successful re-establishment in civil

INFANTRY GREATEST NEED

"The improved strategical situation in the Pacific will enable the units of the 6th Division to concentrate upon their role of training reinforcements for the Army overseas and in order to make this as effective as possible certain reorganization and regrouping of units will take place.

"Since the need for infantry reinforcements is the greatest special emphasis will be placed upon the training of the infantry soldier and some units that heretofore have been trained in other arms of the service such as artillery, engineers and army service corps will now concentrate on infantry training."

Montreal Legion Urges 'Send Draftees Across'

MONTREAL, Nov. 21.—(CP)—The Montreal District Council of the Canadian Legion at a meeting last night called on residents of the Montreal area to "exert their right as voters" by wiring their members of parliament demanding the immediate use of draftees for overseas reinforcements and "the full use of manpower until victory is won."

Meantime the executive of the Jean Brillant, VC, branch of the Legion, in a letter sent to the Dominion Command said that action of the Dominion Command in asking its branches to write members of Parliament urging use of home defense troops for overseas service was "untimely."

The letter said that the regu-

lations of the branch did not permit calling a general meeting on short notice and that only the executive considered the request.

The Three Rivers, Que., branch of the Legion has passed a resolution disapproving the stand of the provincial council which favored conscription for overseas service.

In Montreal, members of Lorne Loyal Orange Lodge have passed a resolution asking for the resignation of Prime Minister Mackenzie King on the issue.

The City Council of Charlottetown, P.E.I., has supported the action of the Legion's Dominion Command.

Hamilton, Ont., women urged T. H. Ross, M.P., to support conscription.

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ELMORE PHILPOTT Zombies Want Conscription

THE PRIME MINISTER REJECTED the advice of the Minister of Defense and decided to prolong the hybrid system of one-foot-in, one-foot-out conscription. Later he made an ultimatum to the draftees, or zombies. He said: Enlist for overseas service now, of your own free will, or you will be compelled to go anyway!

That ultimatum has had the inevitable effect of not increasing voluntary enlistments, but of reducing them.

The official figures for the Pacific Command for the first two weeks of November tell their own story. There were only 362 enlistments all told. Of these 261 men were raw recruits—that is, youngsters "going active" immediately on call up. They need six months to fit them for real soldiering. There were 82 switchovers from zombie ranks—but from other branches of the service than the trained infantry. There were only 19 trained infantry zombies who volunteered to go active. That is not enough to reinforce a single company.

★ ★ ★
WHEN ONE TALKS TO THESE men face to face one finds that they are just about like the rest of Canadians. Those with all the data tell me that physically they are at least the equal of the men in the army overseas—and believe it or not, but it's true—their average I.Q. is higher than the average for the army as a whole. The I.Q., as everybody knows, is the Intelligence Quotient—or rating which psychologists use to measure a person's mental equipment to meet the problems of everyday life.

Why then, everybody asks, do these men not volunteer? The chief reason is that which some politicians at Ottawa simply refuse to face. That is, these zombies actually want conscription. Only conscription, they feel, will get them out of the nasty corner they are in.

Most of these men (sixty percent, the investigators say) are what you might call prisoners of their own womenfolk. They have promised mothers or wives or girl-friends that they "won't go till they are forced to." That is—their womenfolk take the attitude that most people take in countries where there is conscription. They won't consent to let their men "go hunting for trouble." Neither will these men run away from their plain duty when they are made to face it.

★ ★ ★
ANOTHER REASON WHY THESE men have refused to "go active" is that they could see through the slick political trick that the government was always playing at their expense. The government first conscripted them for what some call the zombie service but which might more accurately be called "useless conscription." They were shackled to the army machine. They were in uniform. Their only real freedom was to choose to go active or to be held up to shameful insults. They were like the people whom the authorities in England used to put in the stocks in the village squares. With legs and arms fastened they could not defend themselves. The general public was supposed to play its part by hurling rotten eggs and old vegetables, not to mention sticks and stones, at the unfortunates.

The government—which itself lacked the courage to obey the plebs—put huge advertisements in the

Opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and not necessarily subscribed to or endorsed by The Vancouver Sun.

newspapers entitled "Have You Got the Guts?"

★ ★ ★
THERE IS NO PARALLEL BE-tween the present situation in Canada and that when conscription was introduced in 1917. The present conscripts do not have to be enrolled and trained. They are already in the army. There are more of them than there are in all the actual first line regiments in the entire five Canadian divisions in Holland and Italy.

The experts who saw them in action this year at Wainwright, Alberta (doing intricate manoeuvres in sight of military observers from many countries), say they never saw a keener, finer bunch of soldiers.

Maybe these men got the wrong slant on life during the bleak years of the depression. Maybe many come from homes where the social and family pressure is not in favor of enlistment—obviously they are ignorant of the real issues in this war—but against it. But in any event, these 68,000 Canadians have the makings of as fine soldiers as ever went into action.

If they get conscripted honestly they will go and do as well as the conscripts of Britain, Russia or the United States have done. But they won't go unless they are conscripted—and unless the MP's face that fact our men overseas won't get the reinforcements they need.

Army Methods

Editor, The Sun: Sir,—With all the pros and cons of the battle of "the ins and outs" over conscription, it is very hard to get a true picture of actual reinforcement needs.

How acute these are only a very few outside the General Staff should know. Yet, from the volume of letters pouring into the press of the country, everyone in B.C. is fully conversant with the, or what should be, a closely guarded secret. Perhaps there is an acute shortage of reinforcements. If such be the case there can be no question that the government should do everything in its power to provide the necessary trained men.

However, in connection with any possible manpower shortage it would seem as if the full fighting strength of the overseas Canadian forces is not utilized in the best way. For example—If, instead of having one Canadian Corps in Italy and the other in Holland, the two were to be united, as it was always intended they were to be, there would be considerable saving in personnel.

For it is well known that when two forces are operating apart, both must maintain separate lines of communication troops, extra administration and supply, medical services and many others. All this means reduction of men available for the fighting line.

GORDON MAGEE.

Universities

Editor, The Sun: Sir,—In view of the tremendous pressure being exerted in an effort to get the Zombies overseas, what about detaching the limpets from the universities?

It would be, for them, a blessing in disguise, as it would save them from being haunted all their lives by the knowledge that they had shirked. That they should be deferred is ridiculous. FULL CONSCRIPTION.

4 . . . EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE VANCOUVER SUN

The Vancouver Sun, Owned and Operated by Vancouver Press

Canada's 'Irish Question'

A major crisis in Canadian history is to be faced in Ottawa this week. What course the government adopts may mark our destiny for several decades.

It is possible to reduce the problem to one of military dimensions. Ignoring many important issues and rivalries, you may picture Mr. King saying that the question here is altogether one of high military judgment and advice. If General McNaughton continues to say that there is no problem but what can be met by the volunteer recruiting method and that conscription is undesirable, considering all the conditions and circumstances, the Prime Minister could announce that he intends to accept that advice. It may not be as simple as this, but that is the essential proposition, having regard, too, to the threat of serious trouble with Quebec as the alternative.

Mr. King has done well in the war as the leader of this dominion and we cannot lightly dismiss the arguments he can adduce against compulsion at this period in the conflict. All over the world we have vivid examples of the destruction that can be wrought by civil war. And all of us, we must remember, are tarred with at least some blame because we did not insist on universal national selective service in the first place.

But this solution, which may be the method that Mr. King will stay with, leaves Quebec the boss of Canada. This situation is not to be tolerated longer than emergencies dictate.

When the war is over, Canada must address herself to this problem. Not in any spirit of brutal reprisal, but with a view to settling the question of Canadian unity once and for all. The proposal should be made

that Quebec accept an abridgement of its claims; that it waive any real or implied undertaking dating back to Confederation that French-speaking people would not be called upon for overseas military service.

It is a happy omen of possible success that Cardinal Villeneuve conferred Friday in Montreal with military men. French-Canadians pay close attention to His Eminence. "I am not taking any attitude pro or con (on conscription)," the Cardinal said, "but you cannot fight this war by condensing the horizon to this continent." This is the very "horizontal condensation" which accounts for Quebec's present hostility to conscription, so the Cardinal's words are fraught with meaning.

But if Quebec fails to lift its horizon and declines to agree to a new reunion with the rest of Canada?

Well, we can get along without Quebec. We in the West will have ample capacity to manufacture our own textiles. Let Quebec trade with the Eskimos!

The trouble in Canada is that we have developed so rapidly and easily into such a splendid country—it is the envy of the world—we live so pleasantly that some people forget we have the obligation also on us to fight for it.

But you don't cut off your nose to spite your face. While we are fighting in Europe, it is important not to engage in serious strife at home. Mr. King may be right and correct in his judgment that it is not worth while at this juncture to force a showdown.

When Hitler is finished off, then will be the time to consider the "Irish question" we have developed in Canada and take appropriate, if need be, forceful measures to answer it.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1944

A NATION'S HEALTH IS A NATION'S WEALTH

PARLIAMENT'S DUTY IS CLEAR

PARLIAMENT meets today to decide the reinforcement issue. Across the country the pros and cons of the issue have been debated, in some cases with some heat and not a little confusion of thought. The Members arriving in Ottawa, however, must by now have clearly in their minds what it is they have been called to do, and those not motivated by purely political considerations will doubtless have decided what position to take on the floor of the House and in the division, if one is called.

We say the issues are clear. Parliament is to decide one thing, and one thing only: Whether or not draftees trained as infantry reinforcements should be sent overseas immediately to meet the emergency the Government admits is likely to exist within a short time. That is the issue, and it should not be confused on the floor of the House or elsewhere by other, irrelevant, considerations.

As to the attitude the Members should adopt, that too emerges clearly from the facts that have been put before the nation. Both the Prime Minister and General McNaughton, the new Minister of National Defence, have declared, in agreement with Colonel Balfour who investigated the overseas situation, that an infantry reinforcement emergency will arise in a short time. They agree, also, that in this country there are 8,000 draftees fully trained as infantry and available as reinforcements. An additional 8,000 are in different stages of infantry training and some or all of these should be available as reinforcements later.

These draftees were trained to meet just such an emergency. In the plebiscite of 1942 the Government obtained a clear mandate to use them should an emergency arise. That emergency is now admitted by the Government itself and there should therefore be no hesitation about employing the men specially trained to meet it.

It is agreed, also, that the infantry reinforcements needed overseas can be found only from among the trained draftees. General McNaughton bases his whole position on the possibility—in his view, the probability—of persuading these trained men to volunteer for overseas service. General

LaFleche has already undertaken a campaign to persuade French-Canadian draftees to volunteer. On the other hand, commanding officers of Pacific Coast units declare that the draftees there will not volunteer but would obey a Government order to go.

Persuasion of these men is not the issue before Parliament. It will take time to persuade them, and the country cannot be certain that in the long run a sufficient number will volunteer to meet the emergency. It should be remembered that although persuasion is being exercised on all draftees to volunteer, the emergency need extends only to the 8,000 draftees fully trained as infantry and the additional 8,000 partially trained. These are the men the country needs, and needs now. It would therefore be patently absurd to pin the national hope of providing infantry reinforcements on the mere possibility that a sufficient number of these draftees will come forward willingly. The emergency is too close upon us for that.

Remember, too, that our general overseas effort is not in issue. That effort has been magnificent for a country with Canada's population. To have raised close to one million men by the voluntary method and to have 750,000 of these still in uniform is an achievement of no mean order. General reinforcements for those of the 750,000 who form the First Canadian Army are available; infantry reinforcements only may be lacking in a short time.

This is the picture Parliament will have before it. We repeat, it should not take Parliament long to make up its mind what to do. A long debate is unnecessary. If the Members stick to the real issue before them, a decision can be reached in a very short time.

Will Use No Coercion West Officers Decide

Vancouver, November 21.—Senior officers of Pacific Command decided at a conference here yesterday that no coercion will be used in attempts to implement Defence Minister McNaughton's policy of obtaining overseas reinforcements by voluntary enlistments from among trained Home Defence troops.

In a prepared statement issued today, Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, general officer commanding in chief, said he had stressed to the meeting that "no coercion is to be used and that all will be told of the need of their services and the practical benefits to their own future by becoming volunteers and enjoying the full opportunities of successful re-establishment in civil life."

"The men will be approached individually by their own officers and no attempt will be made to appeal to large gatherings," the statement said, adding the different officers commanding "realized the difficulties that there would be in overcoming the prejudices of men who had been appealed to so many times this year."

Gen. Pearkes emphasized the urgency of the requirements and said there must be a greater increase in the numbers volunteering "than has been evidenced since Gen. McNaughton's appeal was first made," the statement said.

MORE CABINETS AS LIBERAL OVER QUEST

DISSOLUTION SEEN

Believed Almost Inevitable as
Rebellion Widens

ASSURANCE IMPROBABLE

Even Stout Supports of Regime Said Unlikely to Accept
Prospective Statement

By F. C. MEARS

(Gazette Resident Correspondent)
Ottawa, November 21.—An early dissolution of this nineteenth parliament seems inevitable whether there is a last-minute conversion of Premier Mackenzie King and Defence Minister A. G. L. McNaughton or whether they decide to continue the voluntary system to get infantry reinforcements.

Whatever course is chosen there will be cabinet defections. There would obviously be more should Premier King and Gen. McNaughton conclude they have been misled by a will-o'-the-wisp for their Quebec colleagues and some others would quit the cabinet. Should the Prime Minister remain adamant in his opposition to conscription there would be ministerial bolters. Either situation would leave the Prime Minister no alternative other than dissolution for when a government cannot speak with one voice the people have a right to speak.

A lengthy cabinet meeting was held late this afternoon. What its decisions were have not been announced but they must have an important bearing on the parliamentary sittings. It is known, however, that the Prime Minister has decided to have a caucus of Liberal members tomorrow afternoon immediately after the House sitting.

This means that little business will be done at the opening sitting and it also indicates a desire of the Prime Minister to learn as soon as possible where his administration stands with Liberal members, to learn whether he still has a real or solid following outside Quebec.

Much emphasis is being laid by the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister on the statistical case for continuing the voluntary system, but there is good reason to believe that the gravity of the infantry reinforcement situation has not been fully disclosed, and it is improbable that even the prospective statement of Gen. McNaughton to the Commons and Senators will reassure even stout supporters of the administration. Any more information given to Parliament will make the government's position worse, not better.

That the Defence Minister has had extreme difficulty in getting support of his plan of making another try at the voluntary method from the headquarters staff, from the heads of the military districts and from other responsible military leaders in this country is already apparent, and it was made even more apparent by statements from military officers on the Pacific Coast.

AIR HIGHLY CHARGED

The failure of the Prime Minister to confide in his ministers the course he intends to pursue in the House, or even the procedure to be followed in Parliament, has been another contributing factor in producing a highly charged political atmosphere. All this, though, may be rectified at today's cabinet meeting which promises to be crucial.

LET DEFECTIONS EXPECTED MEMBER REVOLT SPREADS TION OF REINFORCEMENTS

NO DELAY URGED

Progressive Conservatives Ask
Rapid Action in Sending Draft

ISSUE MUST BE FACED

Graydon Declares House
Must not Waste Time—
Procedure Unsettled

(Gazette Resident Correspondent.)

Ottawa, November 21. — Parliament should act quickly to make Home Defence troops available for overseas service "without risking a single day's delay," was unani-

ly decided at a Progressive Conservative party caucus today laid plans for the session of Commons which begins to-

day procedure is to be followed House has not yet been de- but it is believed Prime Min- King will open the proceed- with a statement of the mil- manpower situation and then the Ralston resignation cor- dence. These documents will

of what is expected to be ed in the letter sent to Pre- king over two years ago by L. Ralston, then Defence

r, but also because of the ig of at least one other tion letter of that time—one l to have been signed by ns Minister C. D. Howe.

ll has gone out for caucuses vices of Liberal members n, tomorrow, indicating the oceedings in the House will more than two hours.

King is expected to propose a joint meeting of Senators mmoners be held in the s chamber Thursday when

Gen. McNaughton would explain his plans to provide the required reinforcements for overseas by voluntary methods.)

"When the House convenes on Wednesday the issue must be faced promptly and squarely," declared the Progressive Conservative mem- bers in a statement issued by Gor- don Graydon, House leader, after today's caucus of the official op- position. "The House must not waste time in preliminaries. The hour has struck. There must be no further procrastination."

Progressive Conservative mem- bers at their caucus went on re- cord as strongly favoring Parlia- ment sitting morning, afternoon and evening "until reinforcements are on their way." The statement also declared: "It was quickly decided that reinforcements for the troops overseas must be despatched at once, and that the Home Defence Army should be made available for that purpose without risking a single day's delay."

Another important point made by the opposition members that there could be no justification for a secret sitting of the Commons and Senators, simply because "the facts sufficient for Parliament to form its judgment are now fully known."

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McNaughton Probes Statements At West Coast On Reinforcements

Ottawa, November 21. — A let- ter has been sent by Defence Min- ister McNaughton to Pacific Coast army commanders asking that a full investigation be made of a press conference at which officers were quoted as saying the voluntary sys- tem of overseas enlistment would not work. It was understood tonight, however, that the view that press policy are by officers on matters of discipline and a breach of military discipline can be made subject to court martial.

However, it was understood the letter did not call for disciplinary action which, in normal military procedure, would not be asked un- til a full report of the interviews were available.

It was recalled that when Maj. Connie Smythe, of Toronto, criticized quality of overseas reinforce- ments there were reports in milit- ments there were reports in milit- ments there were reports in milit-

Mean- while, it was reliably learn- ed if any disciplinary action were taken as a result of the Vancouver interviews it would be ap- plied by commanding officers on the spot and Gen. McNaughton and the Defence Headquarters here would merely be kept informed of pro- ceedings.

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It was understood that if the commanders' reports show there was a breach of discipline Gen. McNaughton would prefer the of- ficers be given stern reprimands to courts martial with possible ac- companying publicity.

A court martial, he is reported to feel, might give the officers un- warranted notoriety and possibly provide them with a forum for a course he feels is wrong.

In the meantime, the general is said to hope the case will "blow over" and he can get on with the job of recruiting. He feels this job has been made more difficult by such reported statements as the ones in question.

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6,200 of 31,500 Drafted in 1941 Still in N.R.M.A., Figures Reveal

Draftee enrolment by towns, for Quebec, page 11, for Ontario, page 17.

Ottawa, November 21. — De- fence Minister McNaughton to- night issued a statement showing that of 59,002 Home Defence troops on strength October 31, 39,756 came from Canadian cities and towns while 19,246 were from counties and rural areas.

The statement followed an an- nouncement last week that more than 7,000 draftees "went active" between June 6 — D-day — and October 31. At the same time it was disclosed that 6,200 of the 31,500 men called up in 1941 still were in the Home Defence Army.

Starting a campaign to create local competition in recruiting Home Defence soldiers for the overseas reinforcement pool, Gen. Mac- Naughton tonight listed the draf- tee strength by cities, towns and counties. It is understood he short- ly will start to issue regular con- version reports based on the dis- tribution figures. The reports

A breakdown by provinces follows:

	Cities- towns	Rural	Total	Male pop. June 30	Army volunteers June 30
Quebec	18,735	4,112	22,847	699,000	82,858
Ontario	12,777	2,949	15,726	830,000	216,050
British Columbia	2,907	1,122	4,029	181,000	45,160
Manitoba	1,874	1,940	3,814	159,000	37,642
Alberta	1,291	2,440	3,731	178,000	42,285
Saskatchewan	1,017	3,811	4,828	191,000	40,003
Nova Scotia	601	1,165	1,766	123,000	38,821
New Brunswick	431	1,667	2,098	94,000	29,239
Prince Edward Island	23	140	163	19,000	5,529
Totals	39,656	19,346	59,002	2,474,000	535,568

Gen. LaFleche Asks To Go Back to Front

Petawawa Camp, Ont., Novem- ber 21. — War Services Minis- ter LaFleche, 56 years old and a veteran of the last war, asked Prime Minister Mackenzie King if he could go "back to the front line" when he found that the situation regarding reinforcements for the Canadian forces overseas was serious, he said today.

Speaking before 2,000 French- speaking Home Defence troops here, Gen. LaFleche said:

"When I found out that the situation was serious, I asked the Prime Minister if I could go back to the front line. I offered as a guarantee of the good faith of my compatriots, my life, my sword and my portfolio."

The Gazette

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Science and religion no more contradict each other than light and electricity.

—Rev. William Hiram Foulkes.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22.

GOD GIVE US MEN.

The issue on reinforcements which has been formed and deepened through many months has now reached the point of crisis. Seldom indeed has a Parliament met at Ottawa under such intensity of public interest or such urgency of public demand as that which meets today. The interest and the demand alike are not hesitant but determined, not wavering but fixed. All the truest associations of home and blood have been stirred. And the depth and genuineness of the emotions aroused in the people have sharpened their perceptions. Eager for action, they will be alert to note delay; expecting plain speaking, they will not be put aside by verbosity; awaiting patriotism, they will not be satisfied with politics; seeing the issue clearly, they will not be tricked into losing sight of it.

The bitterness of the people comes from the very fact that at such a time they should feel under the necessity of watching the Government with sharp eyes, fearing to be deceived; or of calling upon the Government for spirited leadership, fearing spiritless evasion. What the people want is simply what they have the fundamental right to expect—an inspiring and unequalled call to a last full honorable effort.

For the sake of legitimate contrast, we may compare the enervating words we have so often heard from the present Liberal Government with the heartening words spoken a few weeks ago by a leader in the war effort of the world. These are the words spoken recently in the British House of Commons by Prime Minister Winston Churchill:

"We have never based ourselves upon the strength of the enemy, but only on the righteousness of our cause. . . . Let us go on then to battle on every front, thrust forward every man who can be found, arm and equip forces in bountiful supply, listen to no parleys from the enemy, vie with our gallant allies to intensify the conflict, bear with unflinching fortitude whatever evils, whatever blows we may receive, drive on through the storm now that it reaches its fury."

But it has not been for us in this country to hear such words nor to enjoy such leadership. Instead, we have been treated to pitiful equivocation and asked to cling to dubious hopes. But the time for public tolerance for such methods is past. The people are now simply demanding that their leaders show some of the higher qualities of leadership. The people are weary with counsels of expedience, with the putting of office above principle, with the undemocratic use of party disciplines, with the failure to bring public duty in line with private thinking.

The demand and longing of the Canadian people today are expressed in certain lines written more than sixty years ago. They are from a poem entitled "Wanted", and they echo with full reality in our own testing-time:

"God give us men. The time demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and
willing hands;
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor; men who will not lie;
Men who can stand before a demagogue
And damn his treacherous flatteries without
winking;
Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog
In public duty and in private thinking."

OFFICERS QUESTION MANPOWER POLICY.

Today, as Parliament meets in Ottawa to consider the problem of reinforcing the Canadian overseas army, it will have among other evidence the strikingly relevant declarations made on Monday by certain high-ranking Canadian officers—four brigadiers and two lieutenant-colonels. These officers are stationed with the Canadian Army's Sixth Division in British Columbia—a division which is largely composed of draftees, many of whom are at an advanced stage of training. They were summoned to Vancouver by Maj.-Gen. C. R. Pearkes, V.C., general officer commanding in chief, to plan a recruiting campaign ordered by Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, Canada's new Minister of National Defence.

Just before these officers entered the private Vancouver meeting, they said exactly what they thought of the prospects of Gen. McNaughton's new campaign. They all said the same thing—that the possibilities of persuasion and appeal (contrary to Gen. McNaughton's opinion) are quite exhausted. And they went a step further and explained why the draftees now turn a deaf ear to the Government's appeals. One of the officers, Brig. R. H. Beattie, brigade commander at Nanaimo, puts it this way: "I have in that brigade some of the finest soldiers in Canada. They are just waiting the call from the Government that they must go, for they feel that it is the responsibility of the Government to implement its own legislation."

In short, the remaining draftees are not impressed by the Prime Minister's appeal that they enlist in order to release him from the difficulties which he himself has created.

These officers, it should be noted, speak with exceptional authority. They hold positions of command in the Sixth Division; they have vigorously tried to get results for the Government's previous recruiting campaigns; they have been with the draftees, have talked with them and have learned how they think and feel. Summoned to a meeting to plan a further campaign, they openly declare that it is hopeless.

The importance of their declarations at this time is very great. For the Government has based its manpower policy precisely on the contention that the reinforcement shortage is not immediately urgent, and that it can be met by persuading further draftees to enlist for overseas service. But it is failing to find much support for this policy from informed military opinion.

On the one hand, the Canadian overseas commanders in the field, with the concurrence of the Higher British Command in each theatre of operations, have reportedly declared that a serious reinforcement shortage exists now. On the other hand, six experienced officers of the Canadian Army's Sixth Division in British Columbia declare that this shortage is not to be made up by enlistments from the draftees. Where, then, does this leave the Government policy?

"If the Zombies Would Come . . ."

(This letter, written by a Canadian soldier in the battle line in Italy to a friend in Montreal, is one more confirmation of the need for reinforcements overseas.)

Dear —; I received your letter okay but as we were in the line at the time I wasn't able to answer it until now.

The rainy season has started and has bogged us down so that we are more or less useless. Unless we are used as infantry I guess we won't see any more action until the spring.

Infantry troops are the only ones of any use in this weather. The infantry have suffered very heavy casualties and as there are no more reinforcements arriving in Italy, I wouldn't be surprised if they used us to fill in the gaps. The few soldiers coming from Canada now are used to reinforce the Canucks in France. If the Zombies would come overseas we might get home for a couple of months leave. Boy, would that be wonderful! I am sure that Mother would like to see her wayward son again and I know I would like to her again.

There are easily enough Zombies at home to replace the soldiers who have been overseas over three years and more. There are not as many left over here with that much service. I have only been home for 10 days in four years which is a long time not to have seen one's folks.

It is awfully maddening to read in the papers about the home defence boys doing such and such a thing; instead of printing some of the heroic things done by their overseas forces, they print the other balderdash. There is an awful lot of bitterness in the boys over here about the Zombies, and I'm afraid there will be a lot of trouble between them and us when we return. However, I think I will be so glad to return that I won't worry about them.

I was rather lucky when we were in the line and had a clean escape as I ever want to have. I was driving along in my jeep in the night when all of a sudden the Jerries started to shell the road. The first shell landed about twenty-five yards away and about fifteen feet from the side of the road. The convoy was barely going and I knew the next shell would land right where we were. Fortunately they didn't correct their aim so that the next shell landed in a line with the first about fifteen feet to one side. Fortunately for me there was a lot of mud and the shell, a big one, about 155 mm., just ploughed into the ground a few feet before exploding. It was the only thing which saved me and as it was I was deaf for about fifteen minutes after. I was in mud from head to foot, too, the same as the jeep was. I was scared as the devil but if I hadn't known it was coming I would probably have jumped right out of the jeep. Believe me war is no fun. . . .

LETTERS FROM READERS

Men With Backbone Needed

Sir,—Perhaps it is presumptuous of me to write you, but it is done more to ask advice than to give it. I am 72 years of age, and have stood my watch across the Atlantic in winter time, in vessels of the bath-tub variety until torpedoed, sunk and then put in jail by the Vichy French in West Africa.

I am, by the grace of God, back in Canada, a very good place to be. Let us do all we can to keep it so. Today I feel I should hesitate to follow again behind leaders who ask me to accept at the best a 50-50 chance, and who refuse to back me up to the limit.

I am only a Merchant Marine man, so how much more must the boys over there feel uneasy, when they are face to face with an enemy such as our present one. There is no question in the enemy's mind as to what his leaders will do for him or to him.

The British people take it and it helps them when they see Churchill in the thick of it. His Majesty the King has never hesitated to be where he can uphold their courage with his own example for all.

Come on Canada, we have men with backbone and we need such a man now. Brain cannot get along without brawn. If we put too high a premium on brain, what an exultation it is for the rest of us. Eventually, we shall all use our brains when it may be too late.

Be fair, be straight. If you ask others to fight, do your bit when it comes your way.

G. H. H. ROWE.
Maisonneuve, November 15.

you will find that although I may perhaps win a majority of votes in Quebec, you will find that a number of people who support you in the last election in 1935 will not vote for you again. My family has supported the Liberal Party for several generations. If the party should let down on the fighting fronts and to defer to the wishes of the majority—which is what a democratic government should NOT do—that I will have to cast my vote in behalf of a member of some party.

ELIZABETH R. McFARLANE
Montreal, November 20.

M.P.'s Should Take a Stand

Sir,—I am personally concerned in this vital issue of reinforcements to our armies in the field. I have noticed with regret the voices of our representatives in Parliament have been so silent during this crisis in war, the people are distressed.

Mr. Claxton, member, Lawrence-St. George Division, has been heard over the radio times. His speeches are excellent, but has he ever said anything conclusive to his constituents?

During these last two months of servicemen grasping for even a crumb of insurance from one whom they elected. Had Mr. Claxton's power been raised in their hands they would have been any sentiments of their own. They just yes-men, afraid of their own thoughts.

Why is it necessary to elect polls and elect dummies? We will see where we stand for.

MRS. C. C. STANTON
Montreal, November 20.



THE HAUNTED HOUSE

Intolerable Position

Sir,—It is with the greatest distress that my wife and I have followed the course of the handling of the manpower problem. It is disgraceful that the lives of citizens of Canada (incidentally our relatives and friends) should be made a football of politics.

It is an intolerable position when the Prime Minister can be accused, as he has been by Mr. Ralston, of distortion of the facts in his speech to the people of Canada over the radio, and that he has not been able immediately to refute the charge.

charge. When the responsible Minister goes to Europe to ascertain the facts, returns and reports to the Government, it is disgraceful that he should be asked for his resignation because the facts that he reported did not fit in with the political strategy of the Prime Minister.

The full facts, it is sincerely to be hoped, will be disclosed in Parliament in a few days time. From all the information available to us there seems little doubt that Mr. Ralston is right, both as to the gravity of the situation abroad and as to the promises made previously by the Prime Minister.

by the Prime Minister. It is also intolerable that a responsible Minister of the Crown should go to the United States, and in a public speech, accuse the people of Canada of playing politics in this very grave and vital matter. Such an action is evidently, unfit to hold office at the present crisis and his resignation should be demanded.

You have no doubt become aware of the rising feeling of bitterness and resentment among the parents, relatives and friends of the men at the front on these matters, and we wish to add our formal protest to others that you must have received.

Yours sincerely,
GERMAN

E. S. COLEMAN.
Westmount, November 17.

Letter to Premier King

Sir,—As a citizen of Canada, as a resident of the province of Quebec, and as a wife whose husband is overseas, I feel that it is my duty to inform you how I and many of my friends feel towards the matter of conscription of Home Defence troops for overseas service.

troops for overseas service. Like the great majority of people in Canada, I feel that the time to bring in conscription has now arrived. In the plebiscite the people of Canada gave the Government the power to call up all medically fit men in certain age groups for overseas service if the situation abroad should ever warrant it.

After listening to Mr. Ralston, and after learning from letters — written by soldiers fighting in the battle areas overseas—of the terrible strain they are undergoing because there are not sufficient reinforcements to relieve them, I believe that the time has come for the Government to take a firm step and to send overseas all the men who have been called up for military service.

Do not make this very important issue a political matter, Mr. King. Men's lives are at stake and the happiness of thousands rests upon the Government's decision. Even if you do make it a political issue,

Losing Faith

(The following is an extract from a letter received by a citizen of Montreal from his daughter in London, who, as a hostess in a hotel interested particularly in non-commissioned men, is in constant contact with Canadian soldiers, sailors and airmen.)

I hope old Mackenzie King is having a few sleepless nights of late. I think it is a disgrace that the Infantry of that Zombie Army haven't been called upon.

I nearly wept the other night. Several army lads, boys of 18, 19 and 20, were in the Club and one of them, a perfect little gentleman, said, "You know, . . . I've lost all faith." He apparently is a gunner, and has been trained for just that. The latest is that many from all marches, medical corps, ordnance, signals, etc., are being hauled out, sent to Yorkshire to train in the infantry for one month, and are being shipped right over; this lad said he felt he wouldn't have a chance because a month isn't long enough; he says he doesn't even know how to throw a hand grenade.

Wouldn't you think King would smarten up and send some of these Home Defence infantry types who have been trained for three or four years? All reports from Holland say they simply haven't got enough reinforcements.

No Time to Break Faith

Open letter to all Liberal Members of Parliament elected from constituencies which voted "yes" in the plebiscite.

The issue is crystal clear. Col. Ralston is an honorable man. Col. Ralston is a very industrious and conscientious man. One can get so used to statements, "One of his recent trips overseas he spent sufficient time, and had access to sufficient evidence to form a very accurate opinion as to the situation facing this country as regards reinforcements for the Army. The evidence seems to be overwhelming that Col. Ralston's appraisal of the situation is the correct one.

What have we on the other side? We have Mr. King's radio speech of a few days ago, the typical double talk of a man who has no case at all and knows it thoroughly. We have the opinion of Gen. McNaughton who for a fleeting moment appeared as if he might be the salvation of Mr. King but whose laughable arguments at the two Legion meetings have somewhat tarnished his lustre.

We have his reiterated optimism as to the results to be expected following his recent meeting with the District Commanders but we find no sign whatever of any corresponding spark on the part of the District Commanders. In fact we find quite the contrary if we may credit today's report about the senior officers of the Sixth Division.

There is no basis whatever for the continuance of the voluntary system except political expediency. Tests in your power to ensure that from this date on the gambling in the lives of our troops in Holland and Italy ceases. Do not be misled by specious arguments about giving the voluntary system a fair trial, etc. The voluntary system has had a four-year trial, and while it has done magnificent things, it cannot be done to prevent our troops overseas from finding themselves in a very serious and dangerous position.

It is unthinkable that you should leave them in that position one day more than is necessary. If you do, you break faith not only with them, but also with the thousands who elect you and who voted "Yes" in the plebiscite. This is a responsibility which no man should take lightly, and I commend it to the deep and earnest consideration of each of you before you make your decision.

W. M. TAYLOR.
Montreal, November 21.

PROPERTY OF
THE BLACK WATCH (GARD) OF CANADA

KING REFUSES TO SEE URGENCY IN R SPEAKER BARS MOTION TO SPEED

Premier Intimates No 'Necessity' Of Enforcing Conscription Act

King-Ralston Split Revealed Based on Opposing Opinions on Term 'Necessary' in Regard to Reinforcements for Overseas Troops

By JAMES MACKENZIE FYFE
(Gazette Staff Writer.)

Ottawa, November 22.—Gathering under an intensity of public interest that can seldom if ever have been equalled, the Parliament of Canada has been brought to debate on the vital question of manpower.

The meeting of the House of Commons this afternoon disclosed in its interruptions and outbursts of applause that tempers are running high, that the members who have returned to the capital from their constituencies have been shaken up by the emotions they found at home, and that the majority are anxious to proceed with the business in hand with the least delay.

It disclosed the intention of the government to jockey for position, to stall for time and to make the best possible use of every manoeuvre of parliamentary procedure. It disclosed the position of the Progressive Conservatives—the immediate dispatch for reinforcements overseas of all trained troops in the home defence army. Most important of all, it revealed the crux of the dispute that led to Col. Ralston's dismissal—the fundamental difference between him and the Prime Minister not merely on the necessity of reinforcing the fighting men overseas but on the very meaning of the word "necessary."

If that is all that the session of this afternoon accomplished—and it is very nearly all—it can be said that the Canadian people have learned a great deal. For it is this important difference that goes to the very roots of the matter. The publication of the correspondence between the Prime Minister and Col. Ralston, which was more voluminous and stretched over a greater length of time than had been known, reveals that the Prime Minister is prepared to reinforce the

7 M.P.'s in Uniform Attend House Session

Ottawa, November 22. — (P) — There were seven uniformed members of Parliament—all government supporters—in their seats when the Commons assembled today to open discussion of the reinforcement situation.

Four represented Quebec constituencies: Lt.-Col. M. Halle (Brome-Missisquoi); Maj. Hugues Lapointe (Lotbinière); Maj. J. E. A. Sylvestre (Lake St. John-Roberval); Lt. L. D. Tremblay (Dorchester).

The others were Capt. J. A. Johnston (London); Maj. L. A. Mutch (Winnipeg South) and Pte.-Lt. James Sinclair (Vancouver North).

Majs. Lapointe and Johnston have just returned from overseas posts. Col. A. J. Brooks, Progressive Conservative member for Royal in New Brunswick was present, but not in uniform. He is going on leave next month pending retirement from the army.

Other service members of the House include Group Capt. Denton Massey (P.C., Toronto Greenwood) and six Liberals: Maj. W. E. Harris (Grey Bruce); Lt. W. R. Tomlinson (Bruce); Brig. Charles S. Booth (Winnipeg North); Capt. Alan Chambers (Nanaimo); Maj. A. J. Lapointe (Matapedia-Matane) and FO. Rene Jutras (Provencher).

hibited a greater composure and a surer discipline than their opponents across the aisle. But then the meeting in the House was not important politically. What is important was the Liberal caucus held immediately after the 90-minute session, and adjourned until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

It was learned from a reliable source after the Liberal caucus, which sat less than half an hour, that Mr. King told the meeting that something had developed which necessitated discussion with his cabinet colleagues before the matter was brought before the caucus. What this something was has not been made known.

Before the caucus adjourned, Gen. McNaughton was introduced to Liberal members of the Commons and Senate.

The original plan was to hold provincial caucuses of the Liberal members this afternoon and the general caucus on Thursday, but this plan was suddenly changed and the members received their call to the general caucus an hour before the session opened.

It is at this caucus at which the hour of decision will be struck as far as the party is concerned. Mr. King's task is to hold his government and his party in line. In the view of many observers here it is too late for that now. Time has run out on his policy of improvisation, promises and delaying tactics, they say.

If the Liberal members are content to give Gen. McNaughton "a chance", to wait and see whether the necessary reinforcements can be raised by the voluntary method by a certain time, by a deadline to be set by the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister, then it may be possible to maintain an outward appearance of unity that may turn the ebbing Liberal tide of fortune.

But it is the question of confidence and trust in the Prime Minister's intentions that Col. Ralston has probed so deeply that is the very essence of the problem the government faces. There are members who will not go along one step on that route; they will demand definite commitments. If one of the ministers decides that he has had enough there will be others who will go with him. It is the opinion of seasoned observers here that the Prime Minister is in the tightest political fix that he has ever encountered. No one will admit he knows how he will get out of it. But that is not to say that Mr. King does not know.

Strong Cabinet Group Reported Striving to Alter King Opinion

By F. C. NEARS
(Gazette Resident Correspondent)

Ottawa, November 22. — A concerted cabinet effort to avert early dissolution seemed tonight to be the final outcome of a 10-day ministerial dispute, which resulted immediately in the replacement of Col. J. L. Ralston by Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton as Defence Minister, the tremendous pressure of public opinion, today's troublous sitting of the House, the subsequent short Liberal caucus and tonight's lengthy meeting of the ministers.

The Prime Minister, according to persistent reports circulated with tonight, has been termed an ultimatum by five or six of his colleagues, an ultimatum which carried the alternatives of almost immediate dissolution or the adoption of conscription to meet a grave reinforcement situation overseas.

This story, which is obviously without official confirmation, indicates a keen desire on the part of the government to avoid throwing the country into an electoral turmoil at this most critical stage of the war, and also suggests that there is a tendency in the East Block to bow to the imperatives of this hour for the sake of the nation's overseas and for sake of the nation's name in the family of the United Nations.

After tonight's cabinet meeting of over two hours' duration it was stated that nothing would be announced this evening, but it is believed that final decision has not been reached and will not be until after the Liberal caucus which will resume its meeting at 11 o'clock in the morning.

(The Canadian Press, in an Ottawa dispatch, said it had learned that the cabinet at its meeting reached a "satisfactory understanding" on whether a definite date should be fixed for conscription, the draftees if the voluntary system failed. The C.P. was assured that the cabinet would meet that the cabinet would meet that the Liberal caucus with a "united front.")

Those who feel that determining efforts will be made to stage off general election during the early winter months on what would inevitably be the issue of backing the infantry overseas point out that at no time has the Prime Minister publicly and irrevocably committed himself against such a move.

They also argue that the Prime Minister could not ignore the participation of Canada's active participation in two Quebec conferences and his own close personal association with Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt, who are outspoken in their advocacy of the utmost efforts of their respective nations without regard to military or pecuniary cost.

Even more important than the considerations as a factor in a possible conversion is the rising irresistible tide of public opinion across Canada that is now sweeping at the very doors of Parliament. Liberal members from Ontario, the western provinces have here with angry demands from electors ringing in their ears.

And some go so far as to say even in Quebec province the Liberal members who are now weary but also humiliated, taunts hurled at some of the patriots, and who are now at the prospect of an election which if waged within six weeks must do irreparable harm to Confederation.

There are others who see stories, who dismiss as mere suggestion that the Prime Minister and his new Defence Minister could reverse their position at a particular juncture, especially Col. Ralston has been in the door, but the answer to the tactics that there is really no room to reverse, for neither Mr. Gen. McNaughton is committed to continuing the voluntary system, even if it has been shown to be a failure.

Both the Prime Minister and Gen. McNaughton in all their utterances have said that they are committed to the voluntary system, but there are those who say that there are doubled efforts to get the infantry reinforcements by compulsion, with persuasion, certainly, there is nothing in their meeting—their section of the cabinet—promise proposal—line," a date after which the voluntary system will be required flow of government would involve discussions of Bill 80.

Temperature Yesterday
Max., 36; Min., 33
Same Date Last Year
Max., 30; Min., 26
Wednesday, November 24, of last year:
Max., 39; Min., 29
MCGILL OBSERVATORY READINGS

PRICE FIVE CENTS

REINFORCEMENT ISSUE, CONSCRIPTION DEBATE

ACTION DEMANDED

Conservatives Ask No Time Be
Lost in Enforcing Act

KING FEARS DISSENSION

Correspondence Preceding
Ralston Resignation Is
Tabled in Commons

King-Ralston letters, page 9.
By F. C. MEARS.

(Gazette Resident Correspondent.)
Ottawa, November 22. — Packed galleries, milling crowds outside the building, a fully attended House, most of the senators eagerly watching from the galleries — all this pictured the nation's intense interest in the infantry reinforcement question. But vehement demands from the official opposition for short debate and speedy action were met by "wait and see" pleas from the Prime Minister and spokesmen for the two radical groups.

At every turn, both in the correspondence between himself and Col. J. L. Ralston, in Progressive Conservative pleas for haste and a lively concluding discussion about House procedure, the Prime Minister steadily sought to play down the idea of the urgency, the immediacy of the military manpower problem. Mr. King went so far as to say that the people would not want the proceedings to be rushed lest they not be given sufficient time to read what occurs in Parliament.

Fear of "widespread national dissension" was again given by the Prime Minister, in a letter to Col. Ralston, as his chief reason for refusing to adopt conscription, and in another of the letters Col. Ralston replied to this by reminding the Prime Minister, "It seemed obvious that some measure of difference or dissension could not be avoided whichever course was taken."

Another interesting disclosure in the seven letters exchanged between Mr. King and Col. Ralston was the complaint of the Prime Minister that the then Defence Minister did not reveal the serious reinforcement situation to his cabinet colleagues when they were attending the last Quebec conference.

"No intimation was given of any prospective insufficiency of reinforcements for the Canadian army," said Mr. King, but Col. Ralston replied to this by saying: "The discussions at Quebec had nothing to do with the reinforcement situation overseas, but were in connection with participation in the war against Japan."

GRAYDON WANTS ACTION

"These packed galleries and the deep interest manifest across the country show how deeply the issue now confronting us has burned itself into the soul of the nation," declared Gordon Graydon, opposition leader, when he rose after the Prime Minister had finished reading the King-Ralston correspondence.

"There is a very stern audience outside this chamber, as well as inside," declared Mr. Graydon, "and more important than the public of Canada or the members of Parliament is that vast audience thousands of miles away our unseen audience, Canada's preferred, No. one citizens, the gallant men overseas."

Tense scenes developed as Mr. Graydon sought to emphasize the tremendous urgency of prompt action to provide adequate reinforcements to the infantry overseas. He declared the legislators should sit morning, afternoon and evening so that reinforcements could be speeded across the ocean.

"There must be action and a minimum of talk," declared the opposition leader.

"We must tackle the problem now and this afternoon, not tomorrow or the day after," said Mr. Graydon. "Public concern dictates that course imperatively, as it has never before been dictated."

Trouble began when Mr. Graydon moved, seconded by John Dieffenbaker, that the full provisions of the N.R.M.A. should be put into effect at once and all trained troops in the Home Defence army be now dispatched overseas.

"This is the only question, the only issue before Parliament and people," said Mr. Graydon in conclusion. "Any other issue is only folble and trill, and will be so regarded by a boiled-up public opinion throughout Canada."

But the Graydon motion was doomed for a throttling. "Nothing is before the chair now" said the Speaker, Hon. James Glen.

"Well, get something there," was the impatient interjection of Hon. R. B. Hanson.

"No notice has been given of this motion," continued the Speaker.

Mr. Graydon remarked that no notice could have been given, but the Speaker insisted he, the Speaker, had no authority to present the Graydon motion to the House.

"There is a war on," shouted two or three Progressive Conservative members.

SPEAKER REJECTS MOTION

When it was suggested the motion could be recognized if the House were to grant unanimous consent, Mr. Graydon rose and asked the Speaker to seek this unanimous consent, but the reply from the Speaker was that 48 hours' notice was required for such a motion.

Mr. Graydon and opposition members, warmly resenting this frustration, rose to indicate they were appealing from the Speaker's ruling, but here, too, they were balked for the Speaker declared there was no appeal from such a ruling.

Then when M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, rose to speak, A. W. Neill, independent Liberal member from Vancouver Island, jumped to his feet on a point of order and asked the Speaker, "What is before the House?"

The Speaker explained that the correspondence read by the Prime Minister was before the House, and it had been the practice that when such a matter was raised in opening proceedings by the leader of the House it was proper to have brief statements closely confined to that subject.

"From everybody?" persisted Mr. Neill.

"No, only by the party leaders," the Speaker replied. Opposition members also wanted to know if this discussion was to be restricted to the party leaders, and they received an affirmative answer from the Speaker.

Mr. Coldwell commended the Prime Minister for putting before the House all the correspondence between himself and the former Defence Minister. He asserted that this Parliament would be expected to perform the functions of a high court, that it must act in a judicial capacity, and he hoped the government would submit to the House "every available scrap of information." And he didn't want anybody to hide behind security reasons and withhold any relevant matter. If it were necessary to strictly observe security rules in connection with some questions then he would favor a sitting behind closed doors.

"We have no right here to play politics," declared Mr. Coldwell, who was greeted with Liberal applause, "and I hope in this resumed session we will act in accordance with the highest traditions of Parliament."

"I came here to get all the facts possible," said John Blackmore, New Democracy leader, who condemned the opposition for making a motion which, if carried, he argued, would prevent members from getting all the information they eagerly sought. He said he agreed with the procedure proposals outlined by the Prime Minister.

Mr. King said it would be inadvisable to accept the Graydon proposal for morning, afternoon and evening sittings, and he thought it would be so regarded by the people of Canada. Such a course, he said, would make "thoughtful consideration" of the central question impossible. He declared that if the government had suggested such a course the opposition members would have been quick to scold the administration for suggesting such a thing.

"The boys overseas are not laying off on Saturdays and Sundays," an opposition member called across, and then came from the same seats murmurs of "stalling for time."

These interruptions irked the Prime Minister, who reminded opposition members of their leaders' plea for keeping the debate on a high level.

Mr. King moved that the motion standing on the order paper from last August when the House was making a desperate effort to finish the remaining sessional business, and which called for morning, afternoon and evening sittings be rescinded. This motion was carried on division.

Making a final and forceful appeal for speedy action Mr. Graydon said, "The people of Canada expect us to decide this question with as little delay as possible, and for that reason the opposition objects to this motion to rescind."

"The public will be anxious to read very carefully the reports of what is being discussed here," said the Prime Minister, "and they won't want the proceedings to be rushed to the point that they can't read the accounts of what is going on here." He contended it was in the interests of the public and of Parliament that there be no haste here, that Parliament do not sit morning, afternoon and evening.

Another aspect to the situation is that since the Prime Minister and Gen. McNaughton pleaded for another and fair trial of the voluntary method the elected Liberals have been hearing from their constituents and from the country generally. The electors feel that conscription is necessary, that all the debating in Parliament won't improve this or lessen the necessity for quick action. There has reached Ottawa, in short, not a party clamor but a nation-wide non-political demand for prompt and effective action, and shrewd observers late tonight believed this would be met and the country spared at this critical time a calamitous battle of the ballots.

Tonight's stories indicated that at least six ministers fought for this kind of solution of what is regarded a tragic problem — Mines and Resources Minister T. A. Crerar, Naval Minister Angus Macdonald, Reconstruction Minister C. D. Howe, Finance Minister J. L. Hiley, National Revenue Minister:

PARLIAMENT AT A GLANCE

(By The Canadian Press.)

Prime Minister Mackenzie King read correspondence exchanged between himself and Col. J. L. Ralston.

Gordon Graydon, Progressive Conservative House leader, presented a motion demanding that home defence troops be made available for overseas reinforcements.

M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, said the government should give the House every scrap of information possible on the reinforcement situation.

John Blackmore, Social Credit House leader, said he had come to Ottawa to obtain all possible facts and he was amazed at any proposal that the full study of the facts should be denied.

The Senate met and adjourned until Friday to allow Senators to follow proceedings in the Commons.

TODAY:

The Commons will hear Defence Minister McNaughton outline his views on the reinforcement situation.

THE GAZETTE, MONTREAL, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1944.

(Gazette Resident Correspondent)

This was the crucial letter of the series of seven exchanged between the Prime Minister and Col. Ralston during a feverish fortnight from the day the former Defence Minister quit his post, at the request of Prime Minister King up to four days after the day on which Mr. King sent his request to Hon. James Glen, the Speaker, to call Parliament in special session to consider the conscription issue.

But Mr. King dislikes the suggestion that he fired Col. Ralston and after having called in Gen. McNaughton. The Prime Minister recalled in his reply on November 3 to the resignation letter that Col. Ralston said on several occasions he would have to resign if his recommendation urging conscription

Sir:—In all this welter of talk re sending these young class A men overseas to fulfill their duty to Canada in her great need, has anyone ever mentioned how the refusal to do so will affect the characters of the draftees? Will it tend to make them better, braver Canadians, sensitive of a full share of responsibility in winning this war?

Can Mr. King say "Yes"? Probably he can, with his tongue twisted neatly in his left cheek. But the rest of him cannot honestly answer in the affirmative. Yet these young men, 60,000 strong are Canadian citizens capable of breeding literally hundreds of thousands of children. Now is the time, rather late in the day, but never too late, to teach them that they have a very decided duty to perform to their country. Otherwise they forfeit the title "Canadians".

Because this young and potentially great country is worth fighting for, worth dying for. We are fighting for freedom, against the most evil thing the world has ever known. And the war is by no means over. The Germans, whom I prefer to call "Huns", are fighting desperately for their "sacred soil" and perhaps may continue for years to do so. Who knows? All the world

When the draft system, as being preferred by the only fair, the only equitable way to raise an army, was introduced by Messrs. King, St. Laurent and now Gen. McNaughton, the "glorious" voluntary system? After six years of lunacy, why are we still begging for war, why are we still begging to be implored young men to go to their deaths? Millions have been spent on the "abundant ads," "Canada Needs Men, Enlist today," "What a Normal! What a waste of our good Victory Loan money! It burns me up."

Front Line Units

Sir, — We have been given quite a few figures by Mr. King and General McNaughton regarding the representation of the different parts of the country in the Canadian army. The proof of the pudding is, however, I think, in the number of units representing these parts in our present front line formations.

I have made an analysis of the infantry and armoured corps units which we have been told in our newspapers are in these formations, and find that they can be segregated as follows:

Ontario	—	24
Western	—	18
Maritime	—	7
Quebec	—	English — 5
		French — 4

I think it can be assumed that these sections of our country are approximately similarly represented in the other arms and services of our formations.

"Subsequently," added the Prime Minister in the November 3 letter, "you stated that you saw clearly that the Cabinet were not disposed to accept your recommendation, in view of your possible resignation on these grounds I felt it necessary to ascertain the views of Gen. McNaughton."

Mr. King frankly admitted near the end of that letter that after learning Gen. McNaughton was prepared to continue the no-conscription method of raising reinforcements, "I expressed the opinion that there should not be further delay in reaching a decision." In other words, having found a friend in Gen. McNaughton the Prime Minister told Col. Ralston he would have to go.

The bitter battle continued and three days later, on November 6, Col. Ralston replied to two or three main points of Mr. King's November 3 message, particularly the Prime Minister's complaint that during the Quebec Conference discussions in September of this year when the British and American commonwealths were planning more extensive operations against Japan, no intimation was given of any prospective insufficiency of reinforcements for the Canadian army."

Col. Ralston simply replied on November 6 that "the discussions at Quebec had nothing to do with the reinforcement situation overseas but were in connection with participation in the war against Japan." And Col. Ralston repeated his assertion, contained in his resignation letter, that there were no differences between the Prime Minister and himself on the reinforcement question.

The former Defence Minister reminded the Prime Minister that in Parliament in 1942, the plebiscite year, Mr. King said if conscription ever became necessary, he would not adopt that policy "but you do not believe it has become necessary." Col. Ralston added.

A sly hint that the Prime Minister was hair-splitting was dropped by Col. Ralston in the November 6 letter, when he was discussing the use of the word "necessary". "Your view is that it means 'necessary to win the war', 'necessary to defend Canadian soil', 'necessary to avert some great calamity or catastrophe'."

"I took the word 'necessary' to mean," said Col. Ralston, "primarily 'necessary to keep our overseas army reinforced'. I always thought that this was the meaning given to the word in cabinet and parliamentary discussions. There is, I think, a vital and fundamental difference on this point."

Mr. King had previously denied there was any fundamental difference in the views of himself and Col. Ralston, that the difference was only concerning the method to be employed to get the necessary reinforcements.

Another feature of the correspondence was the Prime Minister's repeatedly expressed fear that to adopt conscription at this late stage of the war would not only not bring the desired military results but it would cause a disastrous national cleavage. Col. Ralston contented himself by pointing out that there would be trouble whichever course were chosen, and that as between backing the infantry attacks in Europe and being anxious about a domestic situation the former, he implied, should get prior consideration.

"It seems obvious," said Col. Ralston, "that some measure of difference or disunity could not be avoided whichever course were taken. What weighed so heavily with me in the stand I have taken were our pledges to our fighting men and indirectly to their families."

Mr. King returned to the Quebec Conference complaint in his next letter to Col. Ralston dated November 10, which was the time when the Prime Minister sent out the call for Parliament to meet. The Prime Minister thought that any possibility of having to resort to conscription to get the needed infantry reinforcements should have been made known to the Canadian Cabinet on September 14, when Prime Minister Churchill and his

THE RALSTON-KING COM. Col. J. L. Ralston and Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King, which was tabled yesterday in the House of Commons, reveals the wide differences between the opinions of these two men now in the centre of the conscription controversy. What is not the less important to public understanding is the way in which it reveals the wide differences between their characters.

Col. Ralston's letters are plain and pointed; Mr. King's are vague and evasive. This contrast runs through their whole correspondence, but it appears at times with a special vividness. So it is at that point where Col. Ralston says ruggedly: "The point is that we are faced with a practical situation which has to be met." And Mr. King replies abstractly: "In deciding upon the best method for the attainment of a given aim, it is imperative to take into account the probable, as well as any known consequences of each and every possible course of action."

This contrast between Col. Ralston's insistence and Mr. King's evasion appears not only in their way of expressing themselves but in what they express. It is Col. Ralston who sticks doggedly to the point, while Mr. King is quick to turn away to some distracting side-issue. Mr. King, for instance, makes very much of the fact that Col. Ralston did not inform him of the reinforcement shortage at an earlier date. But Col. Ralston returns to a restatement of the true issue. "I think this has really no bearing," he writes, "on the issue of sending N.R.M.A. men (the draftees) as reinforcements or on my recommendations to that effect. If it has any bearing it seems to underline the urgency of the necessity which I reported." But Mr. King can be as dogged in his evasion as Col. Ralston can be dogged in sticking to the point. "In the absence of such information," says Mr. King in a further letter, "members of the Cabinet were entitled to assume that the reinforcement situation continued to be satisfactory." Nobody—not even Col. Ralston—disputes this point. The point is: "What will the Cabinet do now that it has been informed?"

But Mr. King is evasive, not only by following side-issues, but also when he is forced into pronouncing on a main issue. The correspondence deals largely with the meaning which is to be attached to the word "necessary." Col. Ralston became progressively suspicious that Mr. King was interpreting the word in so inconclusive a way as practically to release himself from any necessity of positive action. "Your view, recently expressed," wrote Col. Ralston to Mr. King on November 6, "is that it means 'necessary to win the war', 'necessary to defend Canadian soil', 'necessary to avoid some great calamity or catastrophe'. I took the word 'necessary' to mean primarily 'necessary to keep our overseas army reinforced'. . . . This I think is the fundamental difference between us on this point."

Placed in this embarrassing position, Mr. King attempts to elude Col. Ralston's grasp by saying something that conveys nothing. He says: "I think you are in error in attributing to me any different significance to the word 'necessary' than that which it has in my speeches in Parliament."

But the whole content of the suspicion in Col. Ralston's mind was just what Mr. King did mean in his speeches in Parliament. Most particularly, Col. Ralston had understood, or thought that he had understood, that there would be no election on conscription, but that, if conscription were found necessary, the Government would go to Parliament, announce a decision, take a vote of confidence, and that there would be no second debate on the question. A few weeks ago, however, Mr. King told Col. Ralston that conscription would rend the country because of the election that it would involve. "I can think of no course of action fraught with greater danger to our war effort—to say nothing of the unity and strength of Canada today and for generations to come—than a general election at this late stage of the war on the conscription issue." At this subsequent statement of Mr. King's, Col. Ralston was surprised. "I must point out," he replies, "that when Bill 80 was introduced and discussed in the House, nothing was said about an election. . . . The suggestion now of a general election on the matter is the introduction of a new condition not contemplated or discussed at the time Government policy was laid down two years ago."

Indeed, throughout the correspondence, in one way and another, Mr. King makes so much of the danger to national unity in introducing conscription as to carry the suggestion that he would like to picture this risk as too great to be undertaken. But Col Ralston, more realistically, draws attention to the fact there is more than one way of creating disunity, and that the urgency on the side of conscription is very great. "It seemed obvious," he wrote, "that some measure of difference or disunity could not be avoided whichever course were taken. What weighed so heavily with me in the stand I have taken were our pledges to our fighting men and indirectly to their families."

Few indeed, who read through this correspondence, will be able to conclude otherwise than that Mr. King does not intend to introduce conscription; and that he did not intend to introduce conscription even when he was making preparations for such a measure in the passage of Bill 80 in 1942. His recurring references to "the eve of certain victory" disclose his hope of temporizing until the war is over; while the fact that Col. Ralston mentions that at a recent Cabinet discussion "alternatives (to conscription) were suggested such as reducing our commitments", would seem to indicate that Canada's war effort may be

But the bitter part of this issue is not that Mr. King holds these opinions, but that he refuses to state them frankly. No one will deny that Mr. King is a master of casuistry. And the art of casuistry, be it noted, is not that of deceiving others, but of so presenting your case as to allow others to deceive themselves.

But Col. Ralston is one man, who, though caught at first, later extricated himself very completely. There will be many like him.



FOR KING OR COUNTRY

LETTERS FROM READERS

Disgusted With Hysteria

Sir,—Having read with mounting disgust the hysterical letters printed in your editorial pages in the past few days, I ask that a reasonable letter be given space there for a change.

The record shows that the Government recognizes, faces and accepts its grave responsibility to provide reinforcements for our army overseas. The government measures adopted to meet this need are not being given a fair chance.

First of all, whose idea was it that conscription is the only solution to the manpower problem? Who took up and intensified Connie Smythe's irresponsible and unpatriotic charges? Col. Drew, Progressive-Conservative, who raised the hue and cry about draftees, and built up public hysteria by pulling out all the stops on the theme of our boys overseas dying and being wounded while trained men remained in Canada? The leader of the Progressive-Conservative party, Mr. Bracken, whose deep and touching concern for our men on the battlefields is only exceeded by his desire for political power. If Mr. Bracken and his friends were concerned before everything with Canada's war-effort and with the welfare of our armed forces, they could not be campaigning so earnestly to disrupt Canadian unity, to divide the government, and sabotage the government recruiting measures.

The King government deserves the confidence of the people and of the army. In the eyes of the Allied nations Canada's war effort is a proud one, and it was built on the basis of a united Canada led by a responsible government. In contrast, Mr. Bracken and his company of power seekers bear a startling likeness to certain totalitarian rabble-rousers in Europe. It is clear that civil war, that betrayal of our fighting men, would be the calamitous price of the policy they advocate. In demanding conscription at this time, in disregard of the results of their subversive campaign against the government and against the people of Canada, they are guilty of the deepest treason.

This is an appeal to reason, an

appeal to my fellow countrymen to support the government whose war-record is a fine one, whose efforts to maintain a satisfactory flow of reinforcements overseas should be upheld and strengthened in the interests of victory, of the welfare of our fighting men, and of a united Canada.

(MRS.) MIRIAM TAYLOR.
Montreal, November 22.

Cabinet Differences

Sir,—In today's issue of The Gazette, we read on the front page that because of the gravity of the moment and the necessity of acting promptly, the Minister of National War Services, Maj.-Gen. L. R. LaFleche, D.S.O., is undertaking a recruiting campaign to obtain needed reinforcements.

On page 13, we learn through the Minister of Fisheries, Hon. Ernest Bertrand, that the war is won and that the only reason for the present grave fanatical explosion in favor of compulsory service overseas is the desire of a group of men who wish to use the cry against the Prime Minister, etc.

Here we have in effect two Ministers of the same Government contradicting each other, one admitting the gravity of the situation and attempting to do something about it. The other creating the impression that there is nothing to worry about and that it is just politics, thereby hindering the efforts of his colleague.

Who is right and who speaks for the Government? What does the Prime Minister say about it?

G. E. LeRICHE.
Montreal, November 20.

RIISING ABOVE PARTY.

The conflict that must be going on in the minds of many a Liberal Member of Parliament between his personal convictions and his party allegiance on the question of despatching home defence troops to act as reinforcements overseas was illustrated here recently in the case of Mr. Fred P. Whitman, M.P. for Mount Royal. At a Legion meeting, Mr. Whitman spoke on behalf of his party's stand against compulsory service overseas, and then voted as a member of the Legion in favor of just such a policy.

No doubt it is hard for Liberals, as it would be for members of any other party, to break with their political chief on this matter. In any event, few have done so openly to date. But two Western members from the province of British Columbia have clearly stated their position in support of Col. Ralston as against Prime Minister King and the Cabinet.

These are Flt.-Lt. James Sinclair, M.P. for Vancouver North, and George Cruickshank, M.P. for Fraser Valley. Sinclair has seen service in Africa and Italy in this war; Cruickshank is a veteran of the first world war. Both know something of military reality, and have made up their minds accordingly.

Neither should be regarded as having bolted his party. They have simply shown the courage of their convictions in a time of national crisis.

The Gazette

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Members Audit Bureau of Circulations

Facts that are not frankly faced have a habit of stabbing us in the back. —Sir Harold Bowen.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23.

BLUNTING THE ISSUE.

In the first sitting of its special session the Government has not only failed materially to advance the settlement of the issue for which it was convened, but it has disclosed a temper of mind which indicates only too clearly that it will resist all attempts to speed or concentrate its action.

The House sat for less than two hours, and did little beyond tabling the correspondence between Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King and Col. J. L. Ralston—a correspondence which serves to emphasize how deep is the difference between the interpretations they place upon the word "necessary."

When the attempt was made by Gordon Graydon, House leader of the Progressive-Conservative Party, to move for immediate action, he was promptly ruled out of order for failing to give the technical forty-eight hours notice. When Mr. Graydon then asked that the House should sit three times a day and over the weekends, he was put off with the remark that this was a serious business which the people would not wish to see hurried. Voices came from the Opposition that the men overseas could not take time off from attending to their jobs. But the Government did not heed this presentation of the soldiers' point of view.

Little has happened but that little is very significant. The Government has shown enough of its hand to disclose how it will play its cards. There will be all the old manoeuvres, all the defensive technicalities, all the practised elusiveness. Every attempt will be made to break down Col. Ralston's reputation; while the C.C.F. party across the House gives promise of becoming a very ready help to the Government in its time of trouble.

It is now necessary to put aside any lingering hopes that may have been entertained that the Government had at last decided to rise more nearly to the level of its responsibilities. Quite plainly, all the Government's experienced political resources are now to be put to full use to confuse those who are now too clear; to relax those who are now too urgent; to weary those who are now too determined.

Of course the whole issue of sending reinforcements is one that turns upon time. But the Government will attempt, by all the Parliament's delays, to blunt the sharp point of time and to blunt the issue with it.

There is now clearly a struggle between the Government and the people as to whether or not the issue can be kept sharp. For if it is kept sharp—and only if it is kept sharp—will it drive itself home.

OUR ALLIES ARE WATCHING.

The tense issue which has arisen in this country over the need of overseas Army reinforcements, and the dogged refusal of the Government to wield its power to meet the immediate urgency with draftees, have doubtless attracted curious and probably puzzled attention from the peoples of Allied nations. This would apply particularly in Britain and the United States and perhaps to a limited extent in the Soviet Union.

The trend of public opinion in these countries on the challenge to Canada and the Government's arbitrary evasion of it, is an intriguing but not especially comforting subject of speculation for Canadians. For it will be realized that Allied peoples unfortunately yet inevitably can have but the very condensed highlights of the situation before them as information on which to base their opinions.

With the exception of channels of information in the large metropolitan centres, newspapers and news broadcasts in Britain, the United States and Russia have carried only brief, skeletonized reports of the major developments in Canada's conscription crisis. They have not carried full details of how the crisis developed, all the relevant factors and background of circumstances, much less the historical and political prelude which has brought the issue to its present head.

What are the basic, essential facts, stripped bare of all explanatory and contributory qualifications, which Allied peoples have before them as they watch the outcome here? All three countries cited have had full conscription since the very start of their entry into the war. They now see Canada, which for five years has had the draft only for training and hypothetical "home defence," declining to utilize it even when faced with an acute lack of replacements for its hard-fighting units on European fronts. They will have read that the responsible member of the Government in charge of the Army resigned in protest after reporting that it was demonstrably impossible to mobilize and train sufficient volunteers in time to meet the pressing, immediate need.

For nations whose use of conscripts for military service anywhere has neither caused political disruption nor diminished their striking power in war, it must be a little difficult to understand why Canada now holds back at the risk of restricting its contribution to final victory. Some observers abroad may be aware of the proud record achieved by the volunteer mobilization of Canada's fighting services, and have at least a sketchy idea of the background of political tradition surrounding conscription here. But even for them, the circuitous evasions of Canada's government leaders must be a little bewildering and, we fear, disturbing.

RALSTON-KING

Ottawa, November 12.—(P)—Text of correspondence between Prime Minister Mackenzie King and Col. J. L. Ralston, former Defence Minister, follows:

COL. RALSTON TO MR. KING, NOVEMBER 1:

When I returned on October 18 from a visit to the Canadian troops in Italy, in northwestern Europe and the United Kingdom, I felt compelled to recommend as a result of my own observations and inquiries in the battle theatres, and on the information and advice received from my officers, that due to the number of casualties being much greater than had been forecasted on the best information available, it had become necessary to secure substantial numbers of additional trained infantry personnel in order to make reasonable provision for the reinforcement of our troops overseas.

Since it appeared clear to me that enough volunteer personnel could not be made available to meet the need, I considered that I had no alternative but to recommend that N.R.M.A. personnel be sent overseas as reinforcements. I felt that this was necessary to fulfil our pledges to our fighting men.

The whole question was discussed at very considerable length both at meetings of the cabinet and of the war committee of the cabinet. My recommendation was not accepted.

Alternatives were suggested such as reducing our commitments or breaking up unit formations. I felt I could not concur in this when these trained N.R.M.A. men were available; and that at this crucial period Canada's duty was to support our men in the line, and not to relax, but to go on with the task to help shorten the war and speed the victory.

It was suggested that, if a further appeal were made to trained N.R.M.A. personnel by ministers of the crown and others, such personnel might volunteer for general service in sufficient numbers to meet the need. This suggestion involved delays which I considered would be serious if the appeal was not successful. Consequently I wished to be assured that it was government policy that if, after the appeal, the need for reinforcements overseas still existed and N.R.M.A. personnel were not available, this was the course which I and some other colleagues had understood would follow from your speech in 1942. It was in effect what I, as minister, have repeatedly said in the House since then.

No such assurance was forthcoming. On the contrary it has developed in the discussions that the government as a whole (certain colleagues excepted) do not consider that your speech committed the government to this course.

I consider myself bound by what I have said in the House. Our differences are fundamental on the vital matter of reinforcing our troops, and consequently and as requested by you, I at once tendered my resignation as Minister of National Defence.

In the stand I have taken I have considered that my first thought should be my duty to our fighting men in our overseas army.

I wish every success to the distinguished citizen who I understand will take up the duties of this department, and at the same time I want to express to you my very sincere appreciation of the opportunity I have had of serving in Canada's war activities.

MR. KING TO COL. RALSTON, NOVEMBER 3.

I thank you for your letter of November 1 which I received yesterday at a meeting of the cabinet yesterday afternoon. I regret that until today I have not had an opportunity to send you a reply.

You will recall that it was not until October 19 that you informed the cabinet war committee that you had received a report from the Headquarters of the Canadian Military Headquarters in London, stating that the future effective maintenance of our forces in the two theatres of operations required that additional personnel be made available from Canada.

This was the first report made to the government that the army's reinforcement position was causing concern. You will recall the assurance given the cabinet during the first week of August, that additional military commitments then being sought would not adversely affect this position. During discussions at Quebec, at the time of the conference in September, when

INTERCHANGE TABLED IN HOUSE

warmly express my recognition of the services your army has rendered during the war activities have meant to Canada in these most difficult years.

COL. RALSTON TO MR. KING

NOVEMBER 6:

Your letter of November 3 came to my apartment very late in the evening of that date. On consideration I felt that it called for an answer, and I regret that over the weekend imperative matters which I could not escape have prevented my writing you earlier.

In the second, third and fourth paragraphs of your letter you appear to imply that the main issue was in some way affected by the fact that the need to provide for additional infantry reinforcements was not reported by me until October 19 on my return from my overseas inspection trip. I think this has really no bearing on the issue of sending N.R.M.A. men as reinforcements or on my recommendation to that effect. If it has any urgency it seems to underline the necessity of the necessity which I reported. I cabled you from London on October 13 indicating my apprehensions. I reported to you personally on October 18 the same day I arrived home. I reported to war committee the next day. I do not think your letter represents the information given by me to you or to war committee or to cabinet from time to time with regard to the reinforcement situation; but suffice it to say that I have not at any time withheld any information which appeared to require attention.

The point is that when I obtained information which led me to believe that the need for infantry reinforcements could not be met by departmental action alone, I so reported at the earliest possible date. It is possible this information as fully presented with my recommendation for action. The fact that such information was not expected or was disturbing has no bearing. I think, on the essential question of the necessity which I presented.

Regarding the assurance as to reinforcements given in August: You refer to the combining of existing units in Italy into an infantry brigade. Any assurance on this point was given by the officers who knew the situation, and as I have already told you, the corps commander did not know when I was in Italy recently that the casualties sustained by this brigade were no greater than those which had been forecast for the units if they had operated separately.

The discussions at Quebec, of which you make mention, had nothing to do with the reinforcement situation overseas, but rather in connection with participation in the war against Japan.

The point is that we are faced with a tactical situation which has to be met.

You take exception to my statement that "our differences are fundamental on the vital matter of reinforcements." I have given the facts regarding resignation. I think, when my recommendation has not been accepted, when there is disagreement between us as to what was our policy to which the government committed itself in 1942, and when there is disagreement as to what is the present policy, that these are fundamental differences.

You say you are prepared to follow the course outlined in your speeches in parliament ever be necessary, but you do not believe it becomes necessary. There is disagreement between us on the vital point as to the meaning of the word "necessary." Your view, concisely expressed, is that it is necessary to consider it means "necessary to defend win the war," "necessary to avert Canadian soil," "necessary to avert some great calamity or catastrophe." I took the word "necessary" to mean overseas army reinforcement. I always thought that this was the meaning given to the word by council and parliamentary discussions. There is, I think, a vital and fundamental difference between us on this point.

In my letter of resignation I said that my first thought was my duty to our fighting men in our overseas army. Your argument that for the proper accomplishment of this purpose no change should be done which would divide the country, and in this condition where we were in a position to let his friends abroad know how simply I took German the opportunity to old German propaganda but had shocked at the unfavorable race-boosting from Berlin and was made a terrible mistake by

discussed at the time government policy was laid down two years ago.

You mention that you always received assurances that additional commitments would not jeopardize our capacity to provide needed reinforcements. I recall that I have repeatedly said that I could not undertake that reinforcements would always be available wholly from volunteers. My point now is that due to an unexpectedly heavy proportion of infantry casualties and the development of the war we need trained reinforcements, which I consider on the best examination I can make of the situation are not available from volunteers. And we have unused manpower resources in the trained N.R.M.A. personnel, which I think we are bound to use.

In this connection I should remind you that all the formations which we are seeking to support today are formations which had been authorized by the government and approved by parliament previous to your speeches in 1942.

This brings me to your point about disunity in Canada. My speeches in the House make it clear, I think, that I have realized, from the first time the question was raised, the grave possibilities of division. That is why from the beginning to the end of my association with the Department of National Defence I have done everything I could to avoid it, and to maintain a wholly voluntary army overseas. I have had vigorously to come to the conclusion that to make reasonable provision for reinforcements it was necessary to recommend action to make N.R.M.A. men available. It seemed obvious that some measure of difference or disunity could not be avoided whichever course were taken. What weighed so heavily with me in the stand I have taken were our pledges to our fighting men and indirectly to their families.

I want to thank you most sincerely for your very generous references to any services I may have rendered to Canada during these difficult years.

MR. KING TO COL. RALSTON, NOVEMBER 10:

I have duly received your letter of November 7. It seems to call for one or two observations.

The statement in my letter of November 3 regarding the assurance as to reinforcements given in August, has relation to the assurance specifically given at that time by the chief of staff to the war committee of the cabinet that the reinforcement situation was satisfactory. You will recall that the matter arose out of proposals submitted by you on the recommendation of Lt.-Gen. Stuart for the authorization of certain additional personnel for various units and formations of the army overseas, including the formation of the additional Infantry brigade to which you refer. The assurance sought and given had direct reference to the state of the reinforcement pool.

The reference in my letter to the discussions at Quebec was not to any specific matter discussed there, but rather to the fact that no question of any possible national reinforcements was raised at that time. If, on September 14, at the time members of our war committee and our own chiefs of staff were in conference with Mr. Churchill and the British chiefs of staff, and the probable formation of the war and the future employment of our forces were under discussion, there was any possibility of our having to resort to conscription to obtain additional reinforcements for the army, before the end of the war in Europe, surely that possibility should have been made known to the cabinet. In the absence of any such information, members of the cabinet were entitled to assume that the reinforcement situation continued to be satisfactory.

What was meant by the word "necessary" as used in my speeches in Parliament in 1942, will I think be wholly clear from the context as it appears in Hansard. I think you are in error in attributing to me any different significance to the word "necessary" than that which it has in my speeches in Parliament.

The reference to a general election in my letter, as in our previous discussions of the matter, was in the meaning "condition" to the effect that if the government had attempted to proceed at the conference later in this time, it would be extremely difficult to proceed any further. It was not abandoning all hope of the "war job."

But some of us dreamed great dreams and we undertook to do the

vision which would result, and of the possibility that disunity and division in the country might seriously weaken our support for the army, as well as for other phases of the war effort, that I believed it was preferable to redouble our war efforts to secure the required results by voluntary means, including a special appeal to the N.R.M.A. personnel and a review of the employment of the very considerable number of general service personnel serving in Canada and the United Kingdom.

**MR. KING TO COL. RALSTON,
NOVEMBER 10:**

I notice that in a reply to a request for an explanatory statement on my resignation, which appeared in the *Privy Council*, you are reported as having said that you feel "that responsibility for informing the public belongs primarily to the Prime Minister. With this, of course, I am in complete accord, and in the broadens I made on Wednesday night, November 8, I sought to discharge that responsibility."

The report added that you had said you recognized that in this matter the public and the armed forces were entitled to full information consistent with military security. With this also, I agree.

The report continues: "I would assume, said Colonel Ralston in his statement, that the Prime Minister would inform the public of the circumstances by making available my letter of resignation and any further correspondence between us in the matter. The correspondence will speak for itself. I therefore refrain from making any statement at present."

In addition to the obligation upon a member of a government to respect military secrecy in making information public, there is also the obligation of secrecy respecting cabinet deliberations, imposed by the oath of the members of the Privy Council, "to receive and keep secret all such matters as shall be treated, debated and resolved on in Privy Council, without publishing or disclosing the same, or any part thereof, by word, writing or any otherwise to any person out of the same council, but, to such only as be of the council."

The Privy Councillor's oath is not less binding upon the Prime Minister than upon all other members of the Privy Council. It is an obligation I am bound to respect, one of which I must take the fullest account in considering the course to be pursued in making available to the public the correspondence which has passed between us concerning your resignation.

I have the added responsibility for which I will be held accountable by parliament, of advising the Crown as to the time and place at which publicity should be given to such communications. This responsibility is particularly great at a time of war.

In your letter of November 1 you say: "The whole question was discussed at very considerable length both at meetings of the cabinet and the war committee of the cabinet." In subsequent paragraphs you proceed to set forth matters which were "treated and debated" in council.

I cannot feel that I would be justified, in the light of this obligation, in advising the publication of those portions of your letter relating to the deliberations in council or of those portions of my reply referring to what you have said respecting these discussions.

I believe there should be an exchange of letters between us with respect to which no question as to the propriety of publication could arise.

**COL. RALSTON TO MR. KING,
NOVEMBER 14:**

I have your letter of November 10 marked "secret," in reply to mine. I refer in my letter of November 7; I presume you mean my letter of November 6.)

With reference to the assurances given by the responsible officers to the war committee, I had the same assurances as you, and as explained to me and to you the changed situation arises from the unexpectedly heavy proportion of infantry casualties.

Regarding the meeting at Quebec, I still think that this has, for the reasons mentioned in my letter of November 6 really no relevance to my recommendation.

"You speak as if 'any possibility' of having to resort to conscription overseas service had not been considered."

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purely personal nature of messages of a non-limited character to Belgium and Greece on postcards to the postage rate of three cents.

ability of difficulties regarding infantry reinforcements and the necessity, in my view, for keeping N.R.M.A. personnel available in the light of the uncertainty.

May I again come back to the real crux of this matter, which is the actual and urgent situation which I reported instantly on my return from overseas, and which I considered left me no alternative but to recommend as I did.

**COL. RALSTON TO MR. KING
NOVEMBER 14:**

I have your letter of November 10 regarding the release of my letter of resignation and the further correspondence between us.

I do not think there could be any injury to security whatever in publishing the letter and the correspondence, particularly in view of the information given to the public in the speeches by yourself and the Minister of National Defence and by the Minister of Justice.

Regarding Privy Council secrecy, I feel I ought to point out that your own speech of November 8 contains references to matters treated, debated and resolved in council discussions, and I am sure these references would not have been made had you not considered that they were permissible. Furthermore, you had no hesitation in May, 1942, in publishing the correspondence regarding Hon. Mr. Cardin's resignation, which contained references to council discussions.

In any case, permission to make such matters public is vested in the crown, and since the matter is of intense public interest I beg most respectfully to suggest that you advise His Excellency to assent to the release of my letter and the further correspondence.

(Mr. King announced at the end of the reading of the correspondence that there had been a further letter from himself to Col. Ralston in which he had signified his intention of publishing the exchange of letters.)

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For overseas service had not been

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1944

A NATION'S HEALTH
IS
A NATION'S WEALTH

ONLY ONE SOLUTION

NOTHING that occurred in the House of Commons yesterday contributed in the least to the solution of the reinforcement problem. That problem, as we have repeatedly stated, can be reduced to very simple terms: The Canadian Army overseas needs trained infantry reinforcements and needs them soon. These reinforcements are available in Canada. The decision that must be made is whether or not to send them. Neither debate in the House nor the publication of correspondence helps to achieve that purpose and a thoroughly aroused nation eagerly awaits a clear-cut, unequivocal decision.

So far as House action is concerned, much depends, of course, on what General McNaughton has discovered during the few weeks in which he has canvassed the situation thoroughly. When the former Commander of the Canadian Army first assumed the post of Minister of National Defence, he was convinced that the voluntary system could still provide the needed reinforcements. He did not, of course, rest there; he began

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Late News, Sports

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VOL. LXXVI, No. 279

THE WEATHER—Moderately cold; light snow. Complete weather conditions on Page 2.

MONTREAL

DRAFTEES TO 16,000 Made Available By Order In Council

Dramatic Policy Change Is Announced by Premier King McNAUGHTON IN ACCORD

OTTAWA, Nov. 23—(Star Special by Staff Correspondent) — Developments came in rapid fire order today after a long night session of the Cabinet, a long caucus of Liberal members this morning, a special meeting of the Cabinet Council at noon.

When the House of Commons opened, the Prime Minister announced that an Order-in-Council had been passed applying conscription for service anywhere overseas to 16,000 draftees, the so-called Zombies of the Home Defence Army of 60,000.

Premier King declared he would do all in his power to prevent dissolution of the House and an election while the war in Europe was still in progress.

He gave notice that tomorrow he would move for a vote of confidence in his Government.

Premier King Announces Order

OTTAWA, Nov. 23—(C. P.)—Prime Minister Mackenzie King read to the Commons an order-in-council making 16,000 draftees available for service overseas.

The order authorized their dispatch to the United Kingdom, Europe and other war zones including the Pacific.

The order-in-council implemented "Bill 80" the much-discussed amendment to the National Resources Mobilization Act, passed in 1942, which authorizes the Government to send Home Defence troops anywhere.

Previous orders under Bill 80 authorized their use in the West Indies, Alaska, the Aleutian Islands, Labrador and Newfoundland.

The House listened in silence as Mr. King read the order and then tabled it.

A burst of applause rose from some government supporters but others remained silent.

"Hurrah!" called some opposition members.

"Surrender!" called one.

House Not to Be Dissolved

Mr. King said he would do all in his power to prevent dissolution of the House while Canadians still are at the front.

Mr. King made his comment after Gordon Graydon, Progressive Conservative House Leader, had said there was a question of confidence in the Government.

Mr. King said he was confident of support given him in the House. Members in all parts of the House had asked that he stay in office until the war was over.

BE SENT OVERSEAS

paramount need of reinforcements in adequate supply has been recognized throughout our land from coast to coast.

Since taking office he has pressed the application of the voluntary system and pressed completion of the organization and training of home defence soldiers.

Difficulties deterring them from volunteering for overseas service had been in large part removed. District officers commanding had told him they doubted requirements could be met through the volunteer system but loyally undertook to make another effort.

"This they have now done," he said, "and I must admit that the results have not been adequate. I am advised that there are very many N.R.M.A. men who will not volunteer under present circumstances but who are quite willing to be sent overseas."

McNAUGHTON SAYS NO RECENT SHORTAGE

Stating the problem in terms of "numbers and times" the Minister said there was no present shortage in the total number of men required overseas and no over-all shortage in sight.

There were difficulties in transferring men quickly from one arm of the service to another and limits on the extent to which remustering could be carried out.

The infantry had experienced heavy casualties in Italy and Western Europe. The total casualties were not greater than estimates but infantry casualties were. Should casualties continue at present high rates a shortage in infantry reinforcements might occur late in January or February.

Against it there would be large numbers in the depots whose training was approaching completion.

There were, however, many uncertainties, such as delay in sailing dates which might prevent getting these troops forward at the right time. Later in the spring or early summer forecasts showed another period of possible shortage in infantry reinforcements.

Inside the general infantry reinforcements problem was a shortage of reinforcements for French-speaking units which had experienced heavy casualties. Special measures were being taken to meet this.

Actual dispatches overseas during the present year would be greater than originally planned. Shipping had been arranged to the end of December and additional ships could be obtained if they could be used.

16,000 MEN WOULD REMOVE ANXIETY

All anxiety would be removed if 16,000 men could be provided, and, since every possible economy in the employment of fit general service men was now made or in effect, the only source was the N.R.M.A., popularly known as "Zombies".

Hard battles lay ahead since the Allies now were engaged in siege warfare. They were attacking fixed and strongly held defences.

An old gunner who made his military name in the employment of artillery to batter a way for infantry through the German defences in the first great war, Gen. McNaughton, swung into a brief lecture on the present military problem.

"We now, both in Italy and in northwestern Europe, are up against fortified zones of great depth and strength with every obstacle and device to hamper our advance which the German mind has been able to conceive," he said.

"To break through these lines we must turn to siege warfare of the most intense character and above all else we must have guns and shells in lavish quantities."

"We learned in the last war and again in this that in siege warfare there is little opportunity for manoeuvre. When we attack we must use vast quantities of shells to crush out of existence wide sections of the enemy's defence and to paralyse his garrisons and so free the way for the advances of our infantry closely supported by the fire of mobile guns."

It was therefore important to be sure the rebustering of men from other arms to infantry was not carried too far and that the supply of shells and munitions was kept up.

MORE PRODUCTION HELD GREAT NEED

A call had gone out for more production and this had to be given first priority on the industrial effort.

"I believe that the effort which is required can be made without diversion of men needed for reinforcements," said Gen. McNaughton.

"We can divert men from less essential industries. We can use many more women. We can use some of the personnel in the armed forces who are not in the categories fit for service overseas."

"I have proposals in this connection which I hope to raise in later discussions to arrive at an effective use for large numbers of men who have come into the army in Canada, both general service and N.R.M.A. who never can be employed in battle."

The General disclosed he had reviewed the whole Zombie picture since coming into office. He said some of them had been trained and some only partially trained. Some had been used as soldiers and some to gather crops, work in the mines and the woods.

"I do not doubt that all these works are of national importance but I do not think they should be done by soldiers to the prejudice of their proceeding overseas," he said.

Some of the men had received pay on an extravagant scale and it was not to their personal advantage to volunteer for overseas service.

It had been decided that men with long service overseas should have first claim on employment opportunities when the war ends. This meant N.R.M.A. men who had not volunteered should be held until they could be demobilized without prejudice to the overseas men.

His plan for the N.R.M.A. is first to bring all those fit and likely to become efficient soldiers into units to act as a reserve for future requirements for combat operations. Arrangements for this could be effected quickly.

Some hundreds of men engaged on building the Sunnybrook Hospital at Toronto could be called back to their units but because of the importance of the work they would be left on it for the moment. Those physically fit would be replaced with men in lower categories.

STANDARDS OF TRAINING TO BE AT HIGH LEVEL

Standards of training for such combat units would be brought to the high level insisted on overseas.

There were a considerable number of N.R.M.A. men below combat standard but useful for field service behind the battle front.

They would be organized in em-

ployment companies to do unskilled labor wherever required to set free combat troops from such work. From this "Employment Corps" it was proposed to discharge any men required to help on works of national importance for the prosecution of the war.

Responsibility for the selection of such works with a view to their importance and to seeing that soldiers did not deprive civilians for employment would be placed on Reconstruction Minister Howe first and on Labor Minister Mitchell secondly. Employment companies would not be used on non-military works without certificates from the labor and reconstruction departments.

Only pay and allowances provided in military regulations would be allowed and leave in the employment companies would be no more generous than for overseas troops.

Cases of N.R.M.A. men who become physically unfit would be considered individually and those below category for service would be discharged.

Others with low category who, by reason of technical or other qualifications, should be placed in industry would be placed in a reserve subject to recall for military duties.

GALLERIES PACKED FOR DRAMATIC DAY

The members of the Commons today again fled to their seats before packed galleries. For the second day, crowds began assembling at the main entrance of the Parliament Building hours before the sitting opened at 3 p.m., E.D.T.

Before the day's business began, the Prime Minister conferred briefly with Speaker J. A. Glen.

The Prime Minister then read Orders-in-Council covering the appointment of Munitions Minister Howe as Reconstruction Minister, former Pensions Minister Mackenzie as Veterans' Minister, and Hon. Brooke Claxton as Health Minister.

"Are these the only Cabinet changes?" an Opposition member asked.

Dr. H. A. Bruce (PC-Toronto Parkdale) said he wished to present a petition signed by 139 men and women of his constituency and urging the sending of Home Defence troops overseas and the imposition of total conscription.

R. H. McGregor (PC-York East) said he wished to table a similar petition from the people of his constituency.

J. W. Noseworthy (C.C.F.-York South) said he had two similar petitions from his electors and wished to table them.

On the orders of the day, Dr. Bruce asked the Prime Minister if, in view of the disagreement with former Defence Minister Ralston, he would explain to the House what he meant by his comment that draftees would be sent overseas if necessary.

Speaker J. A. Glen called Dr. Bruce to order, and Mr. King proceeded to read the Order-in-Council making draftees liable for service overseas.

GRAYDON OBJECTS TO SECRET MEETINGS

Mr. Graydon repeated earlier objections to any suggestion of a secret sitting.

Mr. King said he was not saying that there should be a secret session, but it should be recognized that Gen. McNaughton would have to withhold some information if he spoke only in open session.

There was a burst of applause as Gen. McNaughton entered the Commons chamber. Several members stood up at their desks. Then there was a hush as he started to speak.

Dressed in a dark suit he stood at a small desk placed to the right of the Speaker on the green-carpeted Commons floor.

Mr. King said he regarded a motion standing in his name in the order paper calling for support of the House to the government in the war effort as a motion of confidence.

Mr. King made the statement during a discussion on progress of the special sitting of the House to discuss reinforcements.

The motion to which the Prime Minister referred appeared in the commons order paper today. It will be debated tomorrow.

"I regard this as a motion of confidence," Mr. King said.

Essential to National Interest

The compulsion order said it was essential to the national interest and for the effective prosecution of the war to provide adequate reinforcements.

It now had become necessary to assure adequate reserves to extend the locale in which certain personnel might be required to serve.

The order authorized the Defence Minister to despatch to the United Kingdom or the European or Mediterranean theatres operations "Such personnel in such numbers as may be approved by order-in-council."

The number specified in the order as being immediately approved was 16,000.

The Defence Minister was authorized to take all necessary steps to give effect to the measure and required personnel dispatched by the order to perform training, service or duty ordered by any superior officer. The order said personnel affected would be on active service.

DRAFTEES TO BE SENT TO EUROPEAN FRONT

Gen. McNaughton told the Commons that the home defence soldiers to be drafted now will be sent to the European theatre of operations.

He said an order-in-council under the provisions of the National Resources Mobilization Act has been passed to this effect.

This, he explained, is the number required to meet foreseen reinforcements needs for overseas formations over and above those likely to be available under the voluntary system.

The announcement came at the end of the new minister's first speech to the House, one made by courtesy of the members, since he has not yet been elected and in which he discussed the reinforcement situation frankly.

He said that except for some 16,000 men we are able to meet all requirements from men who have come forward voluntarily," he

stated. "I have said that it is our purpose to maintain the voluntary system to the limit."

"I have stated that 5,000 additional trained infantry must be available early in December to safeguard the position at the end of January, that another 5,000 must be found in January and some 6,000 in the succeeding months."

"I have brought these facts before my colleagues in the cabinet. An order-in-council has been passed extending the service of this number of men to the European theatre of operations."

LIMITED AUTHORITY FOR DRAFTEE USE

"This power will be used only to the extent necessary to make up the numbers of reinforcements required."

Gen. McNaughton said there was no difference between himself and his predecessor in office, Col. J. L. Ralston, on purpose but there was a difference on methods of providing needed reinforcements.

On coming into the Cabinet he believed the traditional voluntary system, given full public support, would provide the men. To have abandoned it at that time might well not have increased but actually decreased the flow of reinforcements.

"Since then," he said, "conditions have altered. Public attention has been riveted on these matters. The

Motion Asks Aid of House

OTTAWA, Nov. 23 — (Star Special) — Notice is given in the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons today that the Government intends to ask for a vote on its conduct of the war effort of this country.

It is announced that tomorrow the Prime Minister will move:

"That this House will aid the Government in its policy of maintaining a vigorous war."

That is all that the announcement gives.

This move on the part of the King Administration is understood to be an attempt to forestall any further moves on the part of the Opposition to get a quick vote on the conscription issue. Yesterday when Gordon Graydon, Progressive House Leader, attempted to present a motion calling for the immediate sending overseas of fit, trained men of Canada's Home Defence Army, it was ruled out of order for lack of notice.

Until late last night members of the Cabinet met. There was no statement as to what took place but when the Votes and Proceedings were distributed this morning there was the notice that a vote would be sought.

OPPOSITION IS EXPECTED TO MOVE AN AMENDMENT

There is no mention of conscription in the motion. In this way it is hoped to get a vote of confidence in the Government in its war effort without dealing specifically with conscription. It is hardly likely that this will succeed, however, without the Opposition moving an amendment.

Division in the councils of the Cabinet, widely reported last night, appeared to have been bettered as a result of the night meeting of Ministers. The conclusions were reported to a caucus of Government supporters.

The information from Cabinet sources this morning was that "reinforcements will be forthcoming." This was not elaborated on in advance of the caucus. It was not an indication of conscription. The probability of Cabinet resignations was being discounted.

OPPOSITION MAY DEVELOP SOME NEW STRATEGY

The Premier's motion is one that only the most resolute isolationists of the Bloc Populaire would be likely to vote against.

The Progressive Conservative motion proposed yesterday and ruled out on technical grounds of notice being required was not in the order paper today. Apparently it has been dropped in favor of some other strategy.

That a time limit for the draftees to "come across" has been set was a renewed report this morning, but acceptance of it as an accurate statement was discouraged.

Charge that the motion amendment of Mr. Graydon, was "palpably playing politics" was seized upon by some English-speaking Liberals as a reason for "seeing the Government through" on the conscription issue.

Despite publication of the lengthy Ralston-King resignation correspondence the public and Parliament are still without any precise information on the overseas Army reinforcement issue on which to base an intelligent, informed judgment.

Whether Col. Ralston would speak immediately following Gen. McNaughton was not certain.

The most accurate unofficial information available is that Col. Ralston, using information given him by the General Staff and what he gathered himself on his recent visit to the Army overseas, estimated there would be a shortage of infantry reinforcements of 2,000 or 3,000 by the end of January, and around 7,000 by the end of next March. However, and this is the impor-

tant point, this estimated shortage was reportedly based on an uninterrupted continuation of the extraordinarily high infantry casualties suffered during the admittedly difficult and costly Caen and Schelde Estuary engagements. The majority of the Cabinet, it is understood, was not convinced that Colonel Ralston and the General Staff were warranted in anticipating such an uninterrupted continuation of extraordinarily high infantry casualties.

CANADIAN ARMY'S REST NOT POLITICAL MOVE

It is to be noted, too, that the Canadian Army in Western Europe after fighting almost continuously since D-day on June 6, has now been withdrawn from the front lines for a much needed rest, which may last from three weeks to a month. This procedure of

withdrawal from the front line for rest periods follows similar recognized military tactics of the Great War and was not in any way brought about by the political crisis here.

The Ralston-King correspondence is notable for what information it failed to give as well as for what it did give. No figures at all were given on such pertinent, important points as to what reinforcements are actually available in England and in Canada. It did not give any casualty figures nor indicate to what extent the casualties exceeded the estimate. Likewise the correspondence gave no information as to the basis of estimates of future infantry casualties before arriving at the point of which Col. Ralston spoke of as requiring "reasonable provision" of reinforcements, or whether the Caen and Schelde casualties were taken as the yardstick.

HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF IN OTTAWA

History repeats itself in Parliamentary and political situations. The truth of that has renewed emphasis in what is going on here and now, in the subject being discussed, and in its internal effects upon the Liberal party and the Liberal Government.

The old issue of conscription is up again. It is precisely the same issue, involving precisely the same principle, and brought about by the same conditions as governed in 1917.

The question then was reinforcements for the Canadian Army overseas in order to fill the gaps occasioned by casualties on the battle line.

The same question of reinforcements is up now. The same question of how to supply them is renewed — should it be by resort to compulsion or by further reliance on the voluntary system?

MULTIPLICATION OF PARTIES ALTERS SCENE

Nevertheless, there are points of difference between the two situations. In 1917 a Conservative Administration was in office. Now there is a Liberal Administration. In 1917 there were only two parties in the House, Conservatives and Liberals. Now there is an assorted variety of parties, some of them small coming out of the political evolutions in the last few years.

The motion Gordon Graydon introduced in the House yesterday afternoon calls for the enforcement of the Mobilization Act and for the sending overseas forthwith of those in the Canadian Army who have been trained to go.

The motion which the Opposition House leader presented yesterday is not inherently a motion of non-confidence. It would be very much of that effect if the Prime Minister refused to accept it, as there is every reason to think he will. If by any chance he should accept it, then it would not be want of confidence.

However, in any major matter of public policy, as distinguished from some private member's resolution or motion, governments always outline their own policy without accepting the idea of the opposition party as to what the policy should be. Nothing suggests the Prime Minister is likely, in the present circumstances, to follow the lead of Mr. Graydon. If he is going to follow any policy like

that—and the "if" is a very large one—no doubt he would evolve it himself.

There can be no doubt that a situation of gravity has developed over this question in the Government and in the Liberal party. In the correspondence which has been tabled Colonel Ralston asserted, and the Prime Minister denied, that there was a fundamental difference of view between them on the question of reinforcements. The difference, as Mr. King claims, is over the question as to whether, in supplying what is admittedly needed, there should be resort to compulsion of draftees to begin with, or whether continued reliance should be placed, as has been the view of the Prime Minister and General McNaughton, on the voluntary system.

Government supporters had a caucus after the House closed yesterday afternoon. It didn't last long. Last evening the Cabinet had a prolonged sitting and Mr. King's announcement that such a meeting was to be held was one reason for the adjournment of the party gathering. When the Prime Minister went in he was cheered loudly. General McNaughton was cheered with equal warmth. Col. Ralston, the former Minister of National Defence, was there and got up with the others to join in this demonstration.

Sansom Named To Probe Press Interviews

OTTAWA, Nov. 23—(B.U.P.)—Lieut. Gen. E. W. Sansom has been named head of a Court of Inquiry to investigate the press interviews given Monday night on the Pacific Coast by high ranking officers of the Sixth Division, it was learned here today.

Sansom was said to be already on his way to the Pacific Coast via plane to get his inquiry under way at the earliest possible moment.

The exact form which the inquiry will take—whether it is to be a court or whether it will be, initially at least, merely a departmental investigation—was not revealed.

Coincident with the news of Sansom's appointment to probe the press interviews critical of the voluntary system of overseas enlistment which high ranking Sixth Division officers were reported to have given, a report spread from National Defence Headquarters today that immediate steps are being taken here to disband the remainder of the Sixth Division still existing.

Sansom is a native of Stanley, N.B., and went overseas in the present war with the rank of Colonel. He served in Italy and was one of the commanders of the Canadian forces in the landing at Sicily. He has been back in Canada now for some months.

EXPORTS MUST BE FINANCED.

One of the most formidable post-war problems facing Canada is the looming complexity of how, assuming we can sustain production and find markets, a healthy flow of export trade is to be financed. Normally providing a third or more of national income, exports are vital to this country.

The major obstacles surrounding solution of the problem were frankly faced by Mr. R. S. Waldie, president of the Imperial Bank of Canada, at the annual meeting of shareholders in Toronto yesterday.

It is obvious that potential customer countries for Canada's exports will find it difficult if not impossible, particularly in the immediate post-war years, to provide the monetary exchange, reciprocal exports or other considerations to pay for Canadian goods. As Mr. Waldie pointed out, this will be particularly acute and of special concern to Canada in the case of Britain. That nation will emerge from the war a debtor nation, enervated in both economic and human resources, and in no position to assure the large sterling payments with which she formerly met the heavy margin of her Canadian purchases over exports to this country.

Before the war, Canada was normally able to convert those sterling balances to meet the adverse balance of American dollars resulting from trade with the U.S. After the war, Mr. Waldie pointed out, some other system and financial machinery would have to be set up. Unlike a number of influential American bankers, Mr. Waldie believes that the need for such machinery can be met by the Bretton Woods proposals for an international pool of credits and centralized clearance of exchange transactions.

So vital is it to Canada that some such method be devised, he feels, that if the Bretton Woods plan proves unacceptable for general adoption, it is essential that some alternative be found. He specifically mentioned that it might be necessary to continue into the post-war years some form of mutual aid—in effect that Canadians should maintain a high level of economic activity and employment by giving exports to countries needing them and unable to pay, the payment in the long run coming out of Canadians in taxation.

This is indeed a sobering prospect. But it is all part of the intricate, far-reaching problems which will confront the world after the peace, which Canada must play a part in solving and which cannot be solved by refusing to face realities and all their logical implications.

Tense Crowded House Hears Reinforcement Debate Opened

OTTAWA, Nov. 23 (Star Special) — There were many strained faces when Canada's Parliament assembled yesterday to take up the question of sending members of the Home Defence Army overseas and also of the resignation of Hon. J. L. Ralston. And not all the strained faces were on Members of Parliament. Packed galleries were crowded with people who viewed the scene with seriousness. The entire scene made one realize how grimly the country as a whole was taking the reinforcement question.

There was little applause during the hour and a half sitting. When Premier King stood up in his place at the opening there was much thumping of Liberal benches, but beyond that there was only intermittent applause from the Progressive Conservatives during the reading of some of the correspondence between the Prime Minister and Col. Ralston.

Many Turned Away

More than an hour before the session got under way, there were lengthy lines of interested spectators. Many were turned away. The Press Gallery itself had the largest turnout it has ever seen.

Down below in the chamber, Colonel Ralston, dressed in his usual brown suit, had moved to a seat across the aisle from the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Hon. James MacKinnon, while Hon. L. S. St. Laurent, Minister of Justice, had moved into the seat on the left of the Prime Minister, Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Reconstruction, moved in beside Mr. St. Laurent. Hon. Brooke Claxton, taking his seat for the first time as a member of the cabinet, holding the portfolio of Minister of National Health and Welfare, found himself moved into the seat formerly occupied by the Hon. L. R. LaFleche, Minister of National War Services, who moved over to make room for his colleague from Montreal.

Premier King, attired in a black suit, rose to speak at seven minutes after three. He paid tribute to the memory of J. A. Polier,

Liberal of Bonaventure, who died recently. Similar expressions of regret were voiced by the leaders of the other parties.

Hundreds Stood

When Mr. King got going on the reasons for the calling of Parliament, there was not a vacant seat anywhere and hundreds were standing. The diplomatic corps was out in full force as were many from the armed services.

Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, the new Minister of National Defence, but yet without a seat in Parliament, took a seat in the members' gallery, directly across from the Prime Minister. Most of the time he sat with his arms folded and his legs crossed, but when Mr. King paid him tribute, he flinched around, obviously uncomfortable at the plaudits.

During the reading of the letters between Mr. King and Colonel Ralston, the latter made numerous notes. On one occasion when the Prime Minister said "by me" instead of "to me" when reading from one of the former Defence Minister's letters, Colonel Ralston interjected to correct the Prime Minister on his slip.

Pause Precedes Graydon

When Mr. King finished he sat down and for several seconds there was a lull as members wondered what was about to happen next. Finally Gordon Graydon, Opposition leader and head of the Progressive Conservatives in the House, arose with a vigorous demand for immediate discussion of the whole question.

On at least two occasions during the afternoon members of the galleries applauded statements in Col. Ralston's letters, but this quickly subsided as officials pointed out to those who had clapped their hands that such things were not permitted.

There were only a few absentees from the membership of the House. Some of the missing will be on hand tomorrow. At present, of course, there are 11 vacancies in the Commons.

Split Shown In Meaning of 'Necessary'

Views of Premier King And Ralston Differed

OTTAWA, Nov. 23 — (C.P.) — Definition of the word "necessary" occupied a portion of the correspondence tabled in the Commons yesterday with Premier Mackenzie King having the final word — that he still held to his widely-quoted 1942 phrase "conscription if necessary; not necessarily conscription."

Mr. King spoke the phrase when offering a bill to make Home Defence troops available for overseas service by order-in-council.

Mr. King said in a Nov. 3 letter that he was prepared to follow the course outlined in his 1942 speeches if that course was ever necessary "but I do not believe that it has become necessary."

Col. Ralston replied Nov. 6: "There is disagreement between us on the vital point as to the meaning of the word 'necessary'."

"Your view, recently expressed, is that you considered it means 'necessary to win the war.' 'Necessary to defend Canadian soil,' 'necessary to avert some great calamity or catastrophe.'"

"I took the word 'necessary' to mean primarily 'necessary to keep our Overseas Army reinforced.' I always thought that this was the meaning given to the word in council and parliamentary discussions."

Mr. King said Nov. 10: "What was meant by the word 'necessary' as used in my speeches in Parliament in 1942, will I think be wholly clear from the context as it appears in Hansard. I think you are in error in attributing to me any different significance to the word 'necessary' than that which it has in my speeches in Parliament."

(Mr. King told the Commons in 1942 that "to defeat the enemy overseas, and thereby lessen the possibility of the actual invasion of Canada itself, is the objective of Canada's Armed Forces Overseas, whether they be upon the sea, in the air or on land.")

("The Government does not believe that, to serve that end, conscription for overseas service is necessary, at the present time. Moreover, it may never become necessary. But, in case it should ever become necessary, it is surely the part of wisdom that there should be no doubt whatever of the power of the Government to take the necessary action the moment the necessity to do so may arise.")

("In a word, that (the Government's) policy may be described as not necessarily conscription but conscription if necessary.")

(Mr. King said at another stage of the 1942 discussion that "it is not the intention of the Government to resort to conscription for service overseas unless circumstances should arise which would render the use of compulsion imperative, such, for example, as the maintenance of the necessary reinforcements for Canada's Army Overseas.")

NOVEMBER 24, 1944.



THE BLUSHING BRIDEGROOM

WEATHER FORECAST
Moderately cold; scattered snowflurries.
For complete weather reports see page fourteen.

The Ga

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1944.

16,000 DRAFTEES WILL GO OVER FIRST BATCH GOING NEXT MONTH

LEAVES MINISTRY



HON. C. G. POWER

Quebec, November 23. — (C) — It was announced officially at the Quebec offices of Air Minister Power early tonight that he has resigned "because he is opposed to conscription for overseas service." The Air Minister was in Ottawa at the time of the announcement. It had been reported earlier in the day here that he had handed his resignation to Prime Minister Mackenzie King.

Mr. Power is Member of Parliament for Quebec South. It was understood here that he had presented his resignation in a letter handed to Mr. King this afternoon.

King Declines Comment

Ottawa, November 23. — (C) — Air Minister Power, who earlier in the day declined to comment on reports he had resigned from the cabinet, could not be located tonight after an official announcement to this effect had been received from his Quebec office. Meantime, Prime Minister Mackenzie King said he had "nothing to say" on the report.

A Quebec dispatch quoted Maj. Power's Quebec office as announcing that the minister had resigned "because he is opposed to conscription for overseas service."

Maj. Power, looking thin and pale after his recent appendectomy, attended the noon caucus of government supporters. He did not speak at the caucus, the only speakers being Mr. King and Col. J. L. Ralston, former Defence Minister.

When Maj. Power left the caucus room a reporter asked him if it were true that he had resigned.

"I'm not saying a bloody thing," he smiled and waved the reporter aside.

Meanwhile, a source close to Quebec political circles said that Maj. Power felt that he must resign because he believed his recently announced air force partial demobilization program was not consistent with a policy of conscription.

buzz of conflicting opinions on the order-in-council authorizing conscription for overseas service of the Home Defence troops.

Most Liberals representing English-speaking constituencies expressed delight over the decision of the Government, but Progressive Conservatives said the order was a "useless sop" and would not be effective.

The bolting of Mr. Parent followed an announcement from Quebec that Air Minister Power had resigned his post because he was opposed to conscription for overseas. Other Quebec ministers, however, were expected to stay in the Cabinet. The only doubtful one was said to be Public Works Minister Fournier who represents Hull, Quebec. He was not available for comment. Agriculture Minister Gardiner, questioned about rumors that he had resigned, replied: "You can say I haven't resigned."

Cabinet ministers who had been pressing for overseas conscription said they were satisfied.

"It settled a policy," said one of these. "If 16,000 draftees are not sufficient the Government may pass further orders-in-council without coming to the House. It entirely vindicates Col. Ralston."

He said it "vindicated" Col. J. L. Ralston who resigned November 1 as defence minister when the Cabinet declined to accept a proposal that draftees be sent overseas.

Col. Ralston wore a broad smile when asked for an opinion on the scope of the order, but he explained he preferred to express his views on the floor of the Commons.

War Services Minister LaFleche said he would continue his campaign for voluntary enlistments.

"Yesterday I addressed French-speaking boys in the N.R.M.A. at Petawawa Camp and 147 volunteered for active service," he said. "I believe I can get all the French-speaking boys needed by voluntary enlistment and conscription will not have to be used."

Transport Minister Michaud said: "I'm sticking with the chief."

Private Liberal members from Quebec riding appeared disappointed.

"I shall never be able to be elected as a Liberal in my riding," said Vincent Dupuis, who represents Chambly-Rouville.

2 QUEBECKERS BOLT LIBERALS

Pouliot and Parent Cross Floor on Conscription Issue

Ottawa, November 23. — (C) — Two French-speaking Liberal members of the Commons from Quebec tonight bolted government ranks in protest against passage of an order-in-council authorizing the sending overseas of Home Defence draftees, and reports were current that other Quebec members would follow before the end of the session.

J. F. Pouliot, Liberal member from Quebec's Temiscouata County, and Charles E. Parent, Liberal member for Quebec South, crossed the floor of the House within a few hours after Mr. King announced passage of the order-in-council.

Mr. Pouliot said he would sit as a "back-bencher" without party affiliation. Mr. Parent said he would sit as an independent.

"I think there will be a lot" of Quebec members cross the floor, Mr. Pouliot told newspapermen, but he declined to say who he thought might follow his action. The French-speaking members themselves generally were mum on their future plans, neither confirming or denying reports that at least half their number planned to withdraw support from the Government.

Mr. Pouliot said he felt his first duty was to his constituents and he regretted he must leave the Government side.

Mr. Pouliot moved from a front-line seat in the Government side of the House to a section occupied by independent members opposite.

Mr. Parent said, "I urged a 'no' vote in the national plebiscite and at that time pledged that I would cross the floor of the House if the Government enforced conscription for overseas."

He said that after the plebiscite the Government had passed Bill 80 making draftees available for overseas service if necessary "but so long as they did not enforce that bill I was able to support the Government on other legislation."

He said he would join no other party, but would take his status of an independent member.

Mr. Parent first won his seat in 1935 when he defeated the late Maurice Dupre, former Conservative solicitor general.

Mr. Parent's action came amid a

Raymond Says King Has Broken Promises

Ottawa, November 23. — (C) — Maxime Raymond, head of the Bloc Populaire party in a prepared statement tonight in a prepared statement that Prime Minister Mackenzie King "despite often repeated promises that he would never impose conscription for overseas service, has given us new indisputable proof of the violation of one of the most solemn promises ever made by a public man."

Mr. Raymond, who bolted from Liberal ranks in 1942 with a few other Liberals to form the Bloc Populaire, said he was not surprised that the government had decided to send home defence troops overseas.

Mr. Raymond, who represents the Quebec constituency of Beauharnois-Laprairie, said that on September 9, 1939, he had opposed Canada's participation in the war and had stated that conscription would logically follow participation in the war.

OVERSEAS ONLY 'IF NEEDED'; WITH POWER QUILTS CABINET

Canadian Units in Mudholes, Rain Wonder What Is Happening Here

By L. S. B. SHAPIRO.

With the Canadian First Army in Holland, November 23.—(By Wire-
less)—In their accustomed position
on the left of the line, Canadian
troops today sat in their mudholes
under a stinging rain and wondered
what was happening in the august
chamber of the Canadian House of
Commons. They knew the vexatious
problem of reinforcements was un-
der debate at home and this cir-
cumstance afforded them a welcome
change of conversation after days of
grousing over the wretched condi-
tions prevailing while they are liv-
ing and fighting in this cheerless
country.

Dispatches appearing in troop
newspapers and on bulletin boards
have served to clarify their minds
on the issue at home. When Gen.
Andrew G. L. McNaughton first ac-
cepted the post of Minister of Na-
tional Defence, the men here were
confused and incredulous. They de-
clined to accept at face value the
news that McNaughton was a sup-
porter of the volunteer system for
overseas service. They took it for
granted that everybody in overseas
forces, particularly the general, fa-
vored the principle of equality in
sacrifice. Now they realize that Gen.
McNaughton has made an ir-
revocable decision to support the
government's policy and they also
know that when McNaughton makes
up his mind he is as immovable as
Gibraltar.

It is this correspondent's observa-
tion that the men here have recon-
ciled themselves to the notion that
no change can now be expected in
the system of overseas recruiting.
The effect of this realization upon
the troops has not been good and
this unfortunate reaction may be
traced in some measure to the

desperate living conditions here at
the front.

The approach of Christmas coin-
cides with a period of boring in-
action in the most dismal bivouac
area along the entire front. Thus
bitterness engendered in these
men by thoughts of a zombie army
at home does not stem so much
from the principle of equality of
sacrifice as from the notion that
most of the zombies will know
neither lonesomeness nor discom-
fort during the coming holidays.
The frontliners' sense of fairness
has been outraged and they begin
to look upon themselves as "suck-
ers," a feeling not calculating to
improve morale at a time when
morale is a pressing problem.

The average front-line soldier is
in no position to know whether the
present reinforcement pool is ade-
quate to any demands of the future.
Thus far his experience has been
that his depleted ranks have been
eventually filled out with volun-
teers. If it came to a vote he would
probably elect to continue the sys-
tem of volunteers so long as the
supply remained sufficient, because
he has come to look upon zombies
as less than suitable fighting com-
rades. But the resignation of De-
fence Minister Col. James L. Ral-
ston—Gen. McNaughton's predecessor
—back home has instilled in the
front-line soldier a fear that the re-
inforcements situation is not healthy
and Gen. McNaughton's champion-
ing of the zombies' option of ser-
vice has aggravated his sense of de-
solation in this bleak country. He
would like to see Parliament pass
compulsory service at least in prin-
ciple, by way of insuring the fu-
ture, and also by way of relieving
him of the notion that he is the
sacrificial goat of this war

(Released by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

COMPROMISE TRIED

Enforcement of Conscription to
Be Made but Partial

VOLUNTEERS GO FIRST

Minister Says Efforts to Get
Draftees to Enlist Have
Been Disappointing

By F. C. MEARS.

(Gazette Resident Correspondent.)

Ottawa, November 23.—An amaz-
ing move to check a cabinet and
party revolt, to avert an early dis-
solution and to soften the electoral
wrath to come was announced to
Parliament this afternoon at three
o'clock by Prime Minister Mac-
kenzie King when he read an or-
der-in-council passed today au-
thorizing a limited application of
conscription to ensure adequate in-
fantry reinforcements overseas, the
estimated requirements of which
from December to next May was
stated by Gen. A. G. L. McNaugh-
ton to be a total of 16,000.

Mr. King's policy somersault,
prompted by a fiercely aroused
public opinion, has definitely cost
him another cabinet minister, for
it was learned tonight that Air
Minister C. G. Power, with a Que-
bec City seat, has resigned and his
resignation has been accepted. It is
rumored tonight that still another
Quebec minister will quit in pro-
test against the apparent adoption
of conscription—Public Works Min-
ister Alphonse Fournier, represent-
ing the city of Hull.

Then early in tonight's sitting
of the House Charles Parent, a
private member for one of the
Quebec City seats, crossed the
floor and went to the southeast
corner where are the residue of
the Bloc Populaire, and just before
adjournment tonight, J. F. Pouliot
(Temiscouata) took the same route.
That there will be more Quebec
defections is freely predicted, but
these won't develop until the de-
bate on Mr. King's confidence mo-
tion begins next Monday afternoon.

There was a flare-up in the House
just before adjournment tonight.
Mr. King displayed real heat when
indicating the procedure for to-
morrow. He scolded opposition
members for what he charged was
a lack of cooperation, and then he
almost threatened to resign. Mr.
King said he had had to carry an
unusually heavy load of responsi-
bility lately and the opposition
members would have to seriously
think about what kind of a gov-
ernment would succeed his should
he feel he could no longer carry
the load.

Asked by Mr. King what alterna-
tive leader they would put in if he
resigned, Progressive Conservative
members shouted:
"John Bracken"

Hon. R. B. Hanson called across
that Parliament and people could
easily get along without him, and
this remark didn't tend to sweeten
the atmosphere. Mr. King had diffi-
culty in concealing disturbance
over the indiscreet disclosure by
Gen. McNaughton in the afternoon
sitting that he himself, Gen. Mc-
Naughton, was still a firm believer
in the voluntary system and he
wouldn't send any draftees over-
seas under the new powers if he
could get the needed reinforce-
ments in any other way.

After many exchanges between
party leaders after the 11 o'clock
closing time tonight it was finally
decided to conclude the question-
ing of Gen. McNaughton tomorrow
afternoon, and have the House ad-
journ at six o'clock for the week
end. The important debate on the
government's confidence motion will
begin next Monday afternoon with
a statement from the Prime Min-
ister.

There were indications today at
the result of a gruelling questioning
of the new Defence Minister, Gen.
McNaughton, by House members
including Col. J. L. Ralston, his
predecessor in the defence portfolio,
that this conscription dose may not
be hard for Quebec and others to
take. Gen. McNaughton admitted it
Col. Ralston that the 16,000 reir-
forcements to be found won't a

be drawn from the N.R.M.A. pe-
sonnel, while later to Howa
Green, Pacific Coast oppositi
member, Gen. McNaughton caus
members to arch their brows wh
he declared he wouldn't send a
draftees overseas if he could hi
it.

SHARP QUESTIONING

There were lively scenes in
House when after Gen. McNaugh-
ton read a half-hour statement
submitted himself to question.
There were hot retorts, and
quickly exceedingly pointed q-
tions were tossed at him. M
times Gen. McNaughton was
tremely hesitant about answer
and near the end of Col. Rals
questioning of his successor
office Gen. McNaughton said
the particular queries could no
answered without transgre
security regulations.

The big question mark thro
out the afternoon was, why w
necessary for Mr. King to
the door to Col. Ralston on N
ber 1 in the light of today's
ishing partial reversal of p
This query was bound to be
the House and it came just
dinner adjournment at six o

Fur flew in the House i
during renewed examinati
Gen. McNaughton when A. W
Independent Liberal for Van
Island, jumped to his feet to
ask Gen. McNaughton w
shouldn't resign from the
as he said, it was evident t
Defence Minister was not p
to execute an all-out cons
policy.

This brought an angry i
tion from Prime Minister K
even this afternoon showe
tience with the rough
given to his new cabinet
He declared Mr. Neill had
to ask such a question, and
further that no minister
been called upon to und
kind of treatment accorded
McNaughton in today's tw
of the House.

E. G. Hansell, aggressively
Credit member for MacLe
fired what John Diefenb
position member, branded
question, at the Prime Mi
he got an answer that co
information. What the Pri
ter did say in reply indic
ly, though, that since C
was fired slightly more
weeks ago waves of pub
have reached through th
the East Block.

"Would Col. Ralston's
have been necessary," q
Hansell, "if this order
had been passed upon hi
the Cabinet? That is m
and I think the people
have a right to know."
Earl Rowe, P.C. mem
embarrass the general
Prime Minister."

John Diefenbaker, an
sition member, "That
was the \$64 question."
"I want an answer,"
Hansell. "The Prime
accept resignations and
in his Cabinet who
chooses, but you canno
the feelings of the pe
ada, and with the liv
ing men. I want the
answered. Surely the Pr
can answer it. If he ca
try to get it from the
fence Minister (Col.

ansom to Investigate statements on Troops

Ottawa, November 23.—(U—) Lt-
en. W. E. Sansom, of Kingston,
as been appointed by Defence
Minister McNaughton to investigate
and report on statements made in
Vancouver Monday by high-rank-
ing officers of the Canadian Army's
11th Division who said they did not
believe overseas troops could be
reinforced by encouraging Home
Defence troops to volunteer for
active service, it was learned to-
day.

Gen. Sansom, former divisional
commander overseas, was under-
stood to be en route to Vancouver.
Gen. McNaughton said Tuesday
that until he had "full knowledge
of all the facts and circumstances"
he could make no comment on the
officers' statements.

It was understood that the re-
port would be prepared by Gen.
Sansom, on leave from the Army
pending retirement.

Parliament at Glance

(By The Canadian Press)

Prime Minister Mackenzie King
read an order-in-council making
16,000 home defence troops avail-
able for service in Europe.

Defence Minister McNaughton
said it might not be necessary to
send home defence troops overseas
if sufficient reinforcements could
be found through the voluntary
system.

Gordon Graydon, Progressive
Conservative House leader, said
his party planned to introduce a
motion calling for the formation of
a new government under a man
who favored total conscription.

Mr. King said he would do all
in his power to prevent dissolution
of the House while Canadians still
are at the front.

Gen. McNaughton said there will
be no change in the system of call-
ing up men for military service un-
der the N.R.M.A.

Two Liberal members crossed the
floor of the House.

TODAY:

The Commons will continue to
question Defence Minister Mc-
Naughton.

"There are some things that can be done at one time which cannot be done at another," the Prime Minister essayed, "and if the government had attempted to do a month or two ago what has been done today I venture to say that its action would have frustrated the ability of the Defence Department to give to the other side the reinforcements needed at the time they were needed."

Today's parliamentary atmosphere was more tense even than that which enveloped the House and the East Block yesterday. There were hints late last evening that Mr. King might break into acrobatics, and this morning party officials, as well as commoners and senators, called to the resumed Liberal caucus betrayed in their faces an expectation of important happenings.

That caucus was lively and long, and it is believed some noisy speeches were made, mostly by the anti-conscriptionists but beyond the resignation of Maj. Power the price paid for the new delaying action is not likely to be high. The fact is, as was disclosed in the House later by Gen. McNaughton, that the pill was sugar-coated, was in reality not even loaded.

But this won't bar many Quebec members from getting into the debate to be opened tomorrow after-

noon and likely to go to the end of next week. There will be an eager desire on the part of conscriptionists, too, to justify their apparent acceptance of what seems a poor compromise, an innocuous half measure. The debate, if it develops great heat, may yet produce more resignations, but whether they would come from ministers who think the Prime Minister has gone too far or from others who feel he has gold-bricked Parliament, the people and the troops overseas cannot be foreseen.

CONFIDENCE MOTION TODAY

Mr. King announced at the opening of today's House sitting that tomorrow he would make a statement of the government position and move the confidence motion of which notice was given last night. On this motion will be based the debate expected to occupy all next week.

The government won't have it all its own way for Gordon Graydon, opposition leader, gave notice that he would tomorrow move a want of confidence motion setting forth that "this House no longer has confidence in the Prime Minister," and demanding full and complete application of Bill 80.

Mr. Graydon tartly retorted to "a partial reversal of government position," and said it did not greatly surprise the opposition members in view of the really untenable position held by the government up to this time. He also warned that the opposition would be stoutly opposed to any secret meeting of the House to hear answers from Gen. McNaughton which the latter thought might prove of comfort to the enemy.

Mr. King laughed off the remark about "a partial reversal of the policy" and calmly asserted: "The government regards the order-in-council which I read to the House today as in entire accord with the policy of the government."

Then the Prime Minister repeated his assurance that "so far as I am concerned I intend to use all the power I have to prevent a dissolution of Parliament while our soldiers are fighting at the front," but he would not stand in the way of the people exercising their constitutional right of choosing a new Parliament every five years.

"I have perfect confidence in the confidence this House will express in me," said the Prime Minister replying to Mr. Graydon's assertion in the motion he will make tomorrow, that the House has no confidence in Premier King.

Parliament was treated to the unusual spectacle of a minister, without a seat in the House, being questioned by a member of the House who had been succeeded in office by the seatless minister, and the tussle were to be decided on the count system it would have to be awarded to Col. Ralston.

It was during Col. Ralston's brief and perfectly good-humored examination of Gen. McNaughton that the latter confessed he wouldn't exercise the authority given him in today's Order-in-Council to send today's overseas if he could get the needed infantry reinforcements from the general service personnel.

Col. Ralston had just been explaining to the House and to Gen. McNaughton how 5,000 reinforcements were to be raised without the aid of conscription. The last 500 of this contingent was to be gotten by reducing the physical categories of the men.

Gen. McNaughton told the House he couldn't bring himself to accepting that proposal. "You did not find any approval for that I can assure you," remarked Col. Ralston who was apparently seeking to show that the 16,000 estimate of the infantry reinforcements required for the campaign was too high, if necessary, was too

Gen. McNaughton said, indicating the military manpower store on which he could draw, there were the 4,500 already mentioned and then the regularly planned despatches and the 16,000 set forth by Gen. McNaughton as what it was estimated would be needed up to next May.

"These are estimates and they are subject to the incidences of war," said the new Defence Minister. "They are just as dangerous to the conduct of operations

as a shortage itself might well be."

"You are telling me," remarked Col. Ralston with a smile.

NOT SURE OF SITUATION

But, Gen. McNaughton, in response to Col. Ralston's questions, could give no undertaking that the 16,000 mentioned in the order-in-council and in Gen. McNaughton's earlier statement to the House earlier in the afternoon would be sufficient to take care of casualties into next May.

"Will you have a surplus at that time?" queried Col. Ralston.

"If everything went according to the figures the position then would be satisfactory," replied Gen. McNaughton.

"You would have a satisfactory pool on hand?" pursued Col. Ralston. "Yes, in all three bases (Britain, Italy and the Low Countries)," said Gen. McNaughton.

"If you did not get the 16,000 in December, January and February would you, on the estimates, be going into the red?" asked Col. Ralston.

"Far more than going into the red—quite deep," replied the new Defence Minister.

When Howard Green, opposition member from Vancouver, asked Gen. McNaughton what proportion of the 16,000 reinforcements required would be taken from the N.R.M.A. personnel or draftees, Gen. McNaughton reiterated his solid attachment to the voluntary system.

"I am certainly not one to use compulsion more than I possibly can help it to make good the deficiency," said Gen. McNaughton.

"Does that mean," continued Mr. Green, "that there will be no N.R.M.A. personnel sent over between now and next May if you can help it?"

"Perfectly correct," agreed Gen. McNaughton. "There are now signs of a most satisfactory start in the conversion of N.R.M.A. men to overseas service. If this continues to be a fact we would not use this authority, given today, and I would be the most thankful man in this room."

N.R.M.A. men will not be sent overseas if you can possibly avoid it?" asked Mr. Green.

AVOIDS COMPULSION.

"I have no intention of using compulsion if I can possibly avoid it," the General replied.

"Under your policy," Mr. Green continued, "men in the home defence army, whom you admit have had full combat training, will not be put into action but young lads who have had only five or six weeks of training, or make it even seven or eight weeks, will be put into action."

"That is not true and you know it," interjected Labor Minister Humphrey Mitchell.

"I will not answer that question in the affirmative," said Gen. McNaughton. "The answer is definitely no."

"Then the Canadian people will see for themselves," commented Mr. Green.

The questioning took another turn when Mr. Green remarked, "Under this proposed plan there will be two types of Canadian soldiers: one who fights and one who doesn't fight."

"That is a statement of fact: I am not sure it is a question," said Gen. McNaughton, but when Mr. Green put it in the form of a question Gen. McNaughton said, "I sincerely trust that these young men will come forward to take up their obligations. I am doing everything I can to persuade them to do so."

"I understood you to say in your statement," said Mr. Green, "that you had reached the conclusion that it is impossible to persuade these young men to come forward."

"I said that under circumstances as they exist at the moment," replied the General, "there are not enough men with the requisite background of training coming forward to provide the essential reserves needed for our army overseas. For that reason and for that reason only I will use to see that the army is kept up."

When Mr. Green asked the General if he thought the new military manpower policy of partial conscription and part voluntary would promote the unity of Canada, the Defence Minister said that if the army's needs were properly looked after "a lot of fine consequences will follow and we will not have to worry about the unity of Canada."

NEILL ATTACKS MINISTER

A frontal attack upon Gen. McNaughton's acceptance of the defence portfolio and of his subsequently being confronted with an authorization to adopt conscription enlivened tonight's proceedings. The attack came from a veteran member of the House, A. W. Neill, independent Liberal from Vancouver Island, and his attack brought a hot reply from Mr. King who rose to the defence of his new Defence Minister.

"You reiterated not once but several times with more force and determination than you have given to any other expression of your views that your full belief was and still is and would be to avoid force or compulsion," said Mr. Neill, addressing the General, "and not one of those N.R.M.A. men would go over if it possibly could be avoided."

"That is strong language from a man who has just been sworn in to carry out the policy of the government," said Mr. Neill, "from one who placed his faith in a policy directly and diametrically opposed to those that you gave expression to this afternoon. Your subordinates in Ottawa and elsewhere throughout the British Empire or wherever our troops are will know those words of yours, will know the language forthwith."

"They will know," said Mr. Neill, "and must know that, no matter what your written instructions may be your real views are those you have so strongly indicated this afternoon. Your ideas, your wishes, your views are diametrically opposed to the policy you are now sworn to carry out."

"In view of your former position," Mr. Neill asked, "does not the changed policy of the government and the fact that you have not changed justly and compel you as a man of honor to tread the same narrow path of self-sacrifice that was trod by your predecessor (Col. Ralston) and to force you to resign so that someone else can carry on the new policy of the government which now is so entirely different from what you advocated this afternoon and this evening?"

"If the hon. member has any questions to ask about resignations of ministers the proper person to ask is the Prime Minister," declared Mr. King holly. "No minister should be asked a question such as that just addressed to the Defence Minister." Then after reminding the House it was an ordeal for a new minister to go through—he subjected to questioning on his first day in the House—Mr. King proceeded to appeal for fair play.

"He asked for it," interjected Karl Homuth, opposition member. Mr. King concluded the incident by declaring, "there is no man in Canada who has the knowledge of military affairs that the present Defence Minister has."

CO of M.D. 10 Resigns In Protest Over Plans

Winnipeg, November 23.—(C)—Brig. R. A. Macfarlane, officer commanding M.D. 10, tonight announced his resignation. In a statement issued to the press he said he had submitted it November 21 in protest against the voluntary recruiting plans of Defence Minister McNaughton, who had accepted it.

Since Brig. Macfarlane submitted his resignation the government through order-in-council has introduced partial conscription of draftees for overseas service.

Brig. Macfarlane said his resignation arose out of a conference of district commanding officers called by Gen. McNaughton in Ottawa November 14. He said Gen. McNaughton asked his senior officers throughout Canada to undertake a redoubled voluntary recruiting campaign among draftees. In the light of his own experience with draftees, Brig. Macfarlane said he declared at the conference that he did not believe the new campaign would succeed but on his return to Winnipeg pressed the campaign with vigor.

Brig. Macfarlane declared he decided to hand his resignation to Lt.-Gen. J. C. Murchie, chief of general staff, upon reading a press report that Gen. McNaughton had said that "information given me at the conference (of officers in Ottawa) confirmed my belief more than ever that the continuation of a voluntary policy would provide the reinforcements."

"This statement would leave the impression that I, as one of the D.O.C.'s, present, concurred in the belief," Brig. Macfarlane quoted from his letter of resignation.

PLAN IS OUTLINED

Minister Says First Reinforcements to Be Largely Draftees

TRAINED INFANTRYMEN

McNaughton Is Subjected to Sharp Questioning on Re-inforcement Policy

McNaughton text, page 11, Ottawa, November 23.—(C)—Defence Minister McNaughton said tonight in the Commons that the first 5,000 men going overseas next month under the government's new partial conscription program would be "substantially" draftees.

He was replying to a question by Col. A. J. Brooks (P.C., Royal) who appeared in mutli and is soon to retire from the army.

Gen. McNaughton previously had said in his speech to members that of 16,000 men required for the reinforcement stream, 5,000 were needed in December and January and 6,000 in succeeding months. From his speech it appeared these troops would be chosen from trained infantrymen fit for overseas service.

He told Joseph Noseworthy (C.C.F., York South), that it would be "a matter of days" before he asked for the first draft under today's conscription order.

Mr. Noseworthy's question was: "How long do you intend to proceed with the volunteering before you ask for the first draft under the order-in-council?"

The General replied: "It would be a matter of days, as soon as the detailed plans have been prepared."

DETAILED PLANNING.

In replying to further questions by Mr. Noseworthy as to the composition of the overseas drafts, Gen. McNaughton said he was "only able to announce the decision and there is a lot of detailed planning and staff work to be done before we will know who will be in what shipment and so on."

He said he expected to get part of the first 5,000 overseas draft by volunteer enlistments from trained home defence draftees.

Later Mr. Noseworthy asked:

"Will the application of the policy you have announced, that is, securing as many as possible by voluntary enlistment before applying the order-in-council, provide the 5,000 which are needed as quickly as would an immediate application of the order-in-council?"

The General replied:

"The honorable member wants to know whether we can get them more quickly by slapping on the order-in-council and pulling them out than we can by waiting until they volunteer. The action will be governed by the need. There will be no use of proceeding with drastic measures except to fill up a ship as it becomes available."

He said he could not tell Mr. Noseworthy what delay there would be before the first 5,000 were available under his policy.

Later in the proceedings Gen. McNaughton, replying to a question from Lt.-Col. J. A. Ross (P.C., Souris), said that in choosing the draftees for overseas service "they will just be taken from any part of Canada."

At the closing episode in a day of swift developments, J. F. Pouliot (L., Temiscouata), one of the best-known Liberal members, said he was crossing the floor.

Earlier Charles Parent (L., Quebec West) also announced he was crossing the floor as he was unable to support the government conscription policy.

For the greater part of the sitting opposition members fired questions at Defence Minister McNaughton, who took office on November 2 after informing Mr. King he believed the possibilities of voluntary methods of obtaining men for overseas had not been exhausted.

Gen. McNaughton made clear that he still favored the voluntary system and he did not propose to use the authority for compulsion more than he can help to make good a deficiency in reinforcements which otherwise would exist.

The House became noisy late in

9,000 DRAFTEES TO GO TO WORK

To Be Available for Projects of Importance, Says McNaughton

Ottawa, November 23. — (C) — About 9,000 home defence troops are to be placed in employment companies which will be available for work projects of national importance and which may be used overseas on non-combat duties, Defence Minister McNaughton said today in the Commons.

Gen. McNaughton mentioned plans for the employment companies in his formal statement to the House and later elaborated on them under questioning by Howard Green (P.C., Vancouver South).

In addition to the employment companies some men—he placed the number roughly at “a few hundred”—will be allowed to leave the home defence forces and go on reserve to return to industry. These will be men who have special skill which is required for highly important work, such as munitions production. They will be men of lower physical categories.

In his statement Gen. McNaughton said there were a considerable number of national resources mobilization personnel whose physical rating was below that required for combat duty but who were capable of rendering useful service in the field, in base installations, on communication lines and in forward areas but behind the battlefronts.

Safeguards would be taken to assure the employment companies were used only on works of national importance and that the men were not allowed to displace civilian workers. No work would be undertaken until Reconstruction Minister Howe certified it to be of national importance and Labor Minister Mitchell certified no one was being deprived of gainful occupation.

Men assigned to the work companies will receive ordinary army pay and allowances and their leaves will not be on any more generous scale than those allowed overseas.

To ensure men returning from overseas having first claim on civilian jobs it would be necessary to retain a considerable number of men in the N.R.M.A. force and these men could not be kept inactive.

The plan was to give members of the employment companies limited military training and then use them in some form of work.

Whether the employment companies would be sent overseas would depend on requirements, said Gen. McNaughton.

House Atmosphere Is Explosive As Compromise Fails to Appease

By JAMES MACKENZIE FYFE
(Gazette Staff Writer.)

Ottawa, November 23. — The House has met again in another dramatic session with the nation's attention focussed upon it with such critical intensity that every word and every gesture tend to exaggerate themselves and fall out of proportion.

The government, after a morning of party deliberation, in something like a feat of legerdemain, has produced its order-in-council drafting 16,000 Home Defence troops for service in the European theatre. Gen. McNaughton has appeared, made his statement and been cross-examined, and another minister has quit the King Cabinet. When that has been said it can also be added that the situation tonight remains hardly less explosive than it was yesterday.

For when the import of what has happened is recognized throughout the country, all parties to the debate that is corroding the national unity will be even more highly charged with indignation. On the one hand the government states that as required 16,000 N.R.M.A. troops will be drafted for service. But any effect this might have had in assuaging the feelings of those who have been clamoring for the immediate reinforcement of the fighting men overseas from the ranks of the Home Defence army was shattered by Gen. McNaughton.

The Minister of National Defence lost little time in destroying the momentary illusion that the government had undertaken a reversal of policy when Col. Ralston elicited from him the admission, which the general had no hesitation in making, that the 16,000 men envisaged in the Order-in-Council were not all N.R.M.A. troops, and that in fact the Defence Minister will send as few home defence personnel as

he possibly can. He reiterated his conviction that the voluntary system is the best that can be devised for Canada and that it is his intention to maintain it to the limit.

This was, in fact, the sole occasion during the afternoon session on which the minister was specific and decisive. Gen. McNaughton, who was accorded the prerogative of a democratically elected representative of the people in addressing the Commons from the floor of the House, had an unhappy time at the hands of Col. Ralston, Howard Green and E. G. Hansell. But he was in an awkward position, for he was there to tell the House that he had failed, that the results of the effort made in the last few weeks to induce an adequate number of N.R.M.A. troops to volunteer had not proved satisfactory. It remained for Mr. Hansell to put his finger precisely on the paradox of Gen. McNaughton's position. Would Col. Ralston's resignation have been necessary, he asked, if what was done now had been done then?

This is indeed the crux of the Defence Minister's position in the Cabinet today. For he is back where Col. Ralston was on November 1. The order-in-council purports to institute the measures that Col. Ralston recommended, and to that extent the new Defence Minister now makes his predecessor was dismissed. It is being asked here tonight how, in these circumstances, he can remain in the Cabinet in good conscience.

And what of the government and the Liberal party? One Quebec minister has already departed because he is not in favor of conscription, two Quebec members have crossed to make sanctuary

amid the Bloc Populaire, and the imminent resignation of a third member, Hon. Alphonse Fournier, is reported, for to the anti-conscriptionists the order-in-council reads conscription, however it may be sugar-coated by assurances that all general service men will be sent before a single home defender is drafted.

It cannot have been without significance that almost every Quebec member of the House left his place during the questioning of Gen. McNaughton; it had the earmarks of a hastily-convened caucus, and the further activities of the Quebec representation will be watched with attention for their actions in the coming hours will disclose whether they are content to stand by some-

Men Training in B.C. Likely First in Draft

Ottawa, November 23. — (C) — First formation likely to feel the impact of the government's new partial conscription policy is the 6th Division of home defence draftees stationed on the Pacific Coast, military circles reported tonight.

This division has some of the best-trained draftee infantrymen in the home defence army and an officer said, “It seems likely they will get the first call to supply the first overseas draft.”

It was officers of the 6th Division who publicly said Defence Minister McNaughton's voluntary system of recruiting wouldn't work. Their statements are being investigated.

The division is under the command of Maj.-Gen. Hardy Ganong of St. Stephen, N.B., and is part of the Pacific Command under Maj.-Gen. G. R. Parkes.

Both these officers have been reported as having expressed doubts of the voluntary method of recruiting at a staff conference here, but before returning to Vancouver they would give it another try.

REFRESHER COURSE PLAN FOR DRAFTEES

Minimum of Six Weeks Extra Training Is Announced by Defence Minister

Ottawa, November 23. — (C) — Defence Minister McNaughton said in the Commons today that home defence troops and remustered men in the active army going into the re-inforcement stream would be given a refresher course of a minimum of six weeks and that a progressive check-up on their condition and training would be carried out as they moved forward to the actual combat zones.

He was replying to Howard Green (P.C., Vancouver South), who thought that this period of training was insufficient for some men who had not been in actual infantry training for a long period. He wondered why the whole 6th Division of draftees on the Pacific Coast could not be sent overseas as they appeared to be more well-trained than other draftees who might be made available under the partial conscription or remuster policy. Gen. McNaughton read a letter from an overseas field commander in which the commander told of an order on various precautions taken to ensure the reinforcement soldiers arrived at the front line fully ready for battle.

Mr. Green asked if the government's policy would not tend to result in green troops reaching battle areas and therefore he asked if it would not be a better policy to adopt general conscription.

Gen. McNaughton replied that he intended to continue trying to persuade all home defence draftees to go active. First things must come first and his present job was to make arrangements for the necessary reinforcements immediately. In his other job of setting men to volunteer he would like to have a unity of will of the people of Canada behind him.

When Mr. Green asked him further about what he described as an apparent unwillingness on the part of the draftees to volunteer, the general replied, almost with a shout:

“I say that the duty of a man in the home defence army is to take up his duty and to take it up at once as other Canadians are doing.”

Partial Conscription Is Lauded by Smythe

Toronto, November 23. — (C) — Major Conn Smythe said today “it's a great day for democracy and the boys overseas” when he was informed that the government had passed an order-in-council establishing partial overseas conscription.

Maj. Smythe was interviewed at his home where he is still convalescing from wounds he received in France. On his return home in September he charged in a statement that overseas reinforcements were inadequately trained and urged that draftees be sent overseas.

Text of Order on Reinforcements

Ottawa, November 23. — (C) — Text of order-in-council making available 16,000 Home Defence troops for service overseas:

Whereas it is essential in the national interest and for the efficient prosecution of the war to provide for the adequate reinforcement of the Canadian forces overseas;

And whereas it has now become necessary, in order to ensure provision of adequate reserves to meet requirements for the reinforcement of the Canadian forces fighting in Europe and in the Mediterranean, to extend the locality of service of certain personnel who have been called out for training service or duty, pursuant to the provisions of the National Resources Mobilization Act, 1940;

Now therefore His Excellency the Governor-General-in-Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of National Defence and under and by virtue of the provisions of the National Resources Mobilization Act, 1940, and the War Measures Act, is pleased to order and doth hereby order as follows:

Notwithstanding the provisions of any other statute, law, regulation or order, the Minister of National Defence is hereby authorized and directed to dispatch to the following localities of service, namely: The United Kingdom and — or to The European and — or Mediterranean operational theatres such personnel, in such numbers as may be approved by the Governor-in-Council the number hereby approved being 16,000 who are serving by reason of their having been called out for training, service or duty pursuant to the provisions of the National Resources Mobilization Act, 1940, as are or may from time to time hereafter be required, in the opinion of the said minister, for training, service or duty within the said localities of service; such personnel to be detailed from such units, depots and establishments as may be designated by the said minister; and the Minister of National Defence is hereby authorized and directed to issue or cause to be issued all orders and to take all steps necessary to give effect to this authorization and direction; and all personnel so dispatched or to be dispatched are respectively hereby required (in addition to all other obligations for training, service or duty) to perform while in the said localities of service such training, service or duty as may be ordered by any superior officer.

(Signed) Clerk of the Privy Council.

Cardin to Oppose King On Vote of Confidence

Ottawa, November 23. — (C) — Hon. P. J. A. Cardin, former Transport Minister and Liberal member of Parliament for Richelieu-Verchères, said in an interview tonight he would oppose the government on a vote of confidence as a result of its action in authorizing compulsory overseas service.

Mr. Cardin resigned his portfolio in 1942 when he differed with the government on whether action should be taken to authorize action by order-in-council, should it become necessary to use compulsion for overseas service.

He said the order-in-council passed today, which provides immediate authority for sending up to 16,000 home defence personnel overseas, was “conscription pure and simple.”

“I am going to fight the government when its confidence resolution comes up and the other Quebec members should do the same,” Mr. Cardin added.

Prime Minister King said in the Commons today that he would regard the vote on a motion he placed on the order paper earlier today as a vote of confidence. The motion calls on Parliament to support the government in its prosecution of the war.

Order-in-Council Could Extend Number of Draftees for Overseas

Ottawa, November 23. — (C) — While immediate authority has been given the government to send up to 16,000 home defence troops overseas this number may be further extended without any reference to Parliament.

The order-in-council tabled in the Commons today by Prime Minister King gives power to the Defence Minister to send overseas National Resources Mobilization personnel "in such numbers as may be approved by the governor-in-council (the number hereby approved being 16,000.)"

The government paved the way for such an order-in-council when it passed Bill 80 in 1942. Under

the terms of that bill the government could by order-in-council extend to actual battle theatres the areas in which N.R.M.A. troops could be required to serve.

Mr. King said at that time, however, that should it become necessary to take such action Parliament would be given an opportunity to express itself.

That was the course which was followed in the passage of the order today but it has been made clear that further action can be taken without reference to Parliament.

"If the 16,000 draftees are not sufficient the government may pass further orders-in-council without coming to the House," one cabinet minister explained.

Reinforcements Plan Drawn up by Ralston

Ottawa, November 23. — (C) — Col. J. L. Ralston, former Defence Minister, had put into effect a plan to obtain 4,500 additional reinforcements by various methods before he resigned, it was disclosed in an exchange between the former minister and his successor, Gen. McNaughton, in the Commons today.

Col. Ralston was questioning the general and he referred to a plan for the dispatching of reinforcements from November to May. Gen. McNaughton said he was familiar with the plan which he saw when he took over the ministry and the 4,500 provided by it were to be additional to the 16,000 men he said in the Commons today were required.

Col. Ralston's plan provided for 1,500 men being made available by accelerating dispatch of the infantry overseas, 1,500 men other than infantry to be sent directly overseas and remustered there, 750 non-commissioned officers to be demoted to privates but paid at N.C.O. rates for a certain period and 750 infantry tradesmen to be used for general duty but given trade pay.

In addition it had been proposed that 500 could be obtained by taking reduced physical standards but neither Col. Ralston nor Gen. McNaughton approved this suggestion.

450 of Overseas Men Home for Christmas

Ottawa, November 23. — (C) — Defence Minister McNaughton said tonight in the Commons he hoped 450 troops with long service overseas would be home before Christmas on leave.

"That number was set purely by the exigencies of transportation," he continued.

"That is the limiting factor, I am in great hopes that we may have larger numbers and that we can increase them very materially as soon as transportation is available. We are certainly going to do that."

He was answering M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, who asked whether estimates for reinforcements allowed for leave for men who had been in the firing line ever since the invasion of Italy and, more recently, France.

Gen. McNaughton said he was glad the question had been asked as the matter had given him anxious thought.

"Some of our men have been over there five years or more, away from their homes, and we are most anxious that those with such long service should have the rest and comfort that comes from returning to their families," he said.

KING IS TO AVOID POLLING IF HE CAN

He Says He Will Do All Possible to Hold Off Election for the Present

Ottawa, November 23. — (C) — Prime Minister Mackenzie King reasserted in the Commons today that he will do all possible to avoid calling a general election during the war, if this can be done without extending the term of the present Parliament which expires April 17, 1945.

Mr. King made the statement shortly after Gordon Graydon, Progressive Conservative House leader, said his party planned to move a motion calling for a vote of non-confidence in the Prime Minister and for the formation of a government under a new leader.

Mr. Graydon said his party would move the motion despite the fact that the government had passed an order-in-council paving the way for the dispatch of some home defence troops to the European war theatre.

"We intend to move that this House no longer has confidence in the present Prime Minister and that the interests of our troops in Europe and the honor of Canada call for the immediate application of the full provisions of the Mobilization Act and that another government should be formed without delay under leadership known to favor and pledged to take that course."

The French Press

Political Disturbance (Le Droit)

Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Reconstruction in the Federal Cabinet, spoke very sensibly when he said, before the members of the Canadian Club at Chicago, that the disturbance created recently in connection with conscription for overseas service was of political origin. In fact, this disturbance takes place on the eve of general elections which cannot long be delayed, after almost five years of war and general election, at which time all the heads of political parties were in favor of voluntary service and against conscription.

This disturbance followed its course for a while, to the detriment of our home defence army, composed of recruits called by the government for compulsory military service, and declared useless by those who were the first to ask for its creation.

The members of this army can be sent for the defence of Canada to any spot on the American continent. In fact, 8,000 among them formed part of the Kiska expedition, 2,500 miles from the Pacific Coast, where they were to oust the Japanese occupation troops. The latter had left before their arrival. But our troops endured no less than six long months of exile and privation in a desolate land.

Many people believed that the home defence army was composed for the most part of French Canadian conscripts, which explained the rancor in certain centres against these soldiers. In his first speech, Mr. Mackenzie King revealed that, in this army, all groups of the population are represented, in proportion to their numerical importance. Moreover, some thousands only of these soldiers would be ready, if conscription for overseas service were put in force, to serve as reinforcements for the Canadian army actually fighting in Italy and in Holland.

This question of reinforcements was also brought up for political purposes, as it would be hard to make anyone believe that Canadian military authorities did not foresee this problem, from the very beginning of the formation of our voluntary army.

At the time of the last war, conscription was voted for during the session which terminated at the

end of September, 1917, and was put in force after the general election which took place in the month of December of the same year. The young conscripts underwent military training; some of them were sent overseas, but we do not believe that one of them was ever in the firing line. And still, conscription was enforced in order to supply reinforcements for the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Mr. Howe is right in saying that this measure caused more harm than good, and today a similar measure would be practically useless. In fact, it is fairly reasonable to believe that hostilities will cease some time during the next few months. If the problem of reinforcements has not already been settled, it is not conscription so long delayed that will remedy the situation.

The same Minister has remarked that conscription does not harmonize with the general measures taken by the government to assure not only the maintenance of the active army, but also the manufacture of munitions, the need for which is being felt more and more.

Let us cite with Mr. Howe the fact that, at a given time, the number of our soldiers, our aviators and our sailors surpasses the million mark, which is not bad for a population of eleven and a half million inhabitants. In proportion, Canada has, according to this report, done more than any one of the United Nations.

To claim now, in order to crown her war effort, that Canada must impose conscription, is to ignore the important part that our country has taken in the conflict and stir up agitation for purely political ends.

Not Satisfactory

(Ottawa Journal) — Who says that? Not some Canadian newspaper or politician attacking Mr. King. It is said by Hanson Baldwin, of the New York Times, admittedly the ablest military student produced by this war.

Baldwin, dealing with the present offensive in the West, says that "bruisings, bitter slugging matches — some of the hardest battles in our history — must precede even limited success," and then, after summing up the forces available to General Eisenhower and the difficulties that confront him, remarks:

"General Eisenhower has perhaps six to ten Canadian, British, Polish and other units in the 1st Canadian Army. This last army has recently completely a bitter fight to free the approaches to Antwerp of Germans and is probably exhausted, and the Canadian Army replacement system has not been satisfactory."

There are some who tell us that what Canada does or fails to do about reinforcements at this time cannot make much difference in the winning of the war. It can make a difference, and a very great difference to our part at the peace table.

QUEBEC YOUTHS STAGE PROTEST

No Serious Disorders Reported in Demonstration by Students

(Special to The Gazette.)

Quebec, November 23. — An anti-conscription demonstration, apparently organized by Laval University undergraduates and consisting mostly in a street parade and several impromptu meetings which lasted about an hour and a half all told, took place here this evening.

Police reported no arrests, no fights or serious disorders and no damages of any importance — despite certain radio reports to the contrary — and the demonstrations terminated peacefully around 9.30.

About the most serious incident reported was that the bulletin boards of the local English language newspaper, the Chronicle-Telegraph, were defaced, mostly through being torn and having ink or paint splashed upon them, while a flash board at the door, announcing the decision of the King Government to impose conscription, disappeared.

Reports that damages had been caused to the building and that windows had been broken were denied by police and company officials. The paper has been alone here in its campaign in favor of imposing conscription and, mostly as a precautionary measure, a special police guard was thrown around the Chronicle-Telegraph plant for the rest of the night.

Rumors had the crowds of young men, most of whom were reported by police to seem to be between 16 and 18, ranging all the way from 200 to 1,200 or so but it appeared that the average size of the demonstrators' ranks was in the neighborhood of 500. They carried possibly half a hundred posters and placards upon which were such slogans as "Down with conscription," "Protect our youth," and "We are against

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The wise man is he who knows the relative value of things.

—Dean Inge.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24.

EDGING TOWARDS CONSCRIPTION?

On October 31 one member of the Liberal Cabinet of Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King—Col. J. L. Ralston—retired because he believed in conscription. Yesterday another member—Maj. C. G. Power—retired because he does not believe in conscription. These curious facts, added to the order-in-council that the Government has passed, and the tenor of Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton's curious address to the House yesterday, may be indications that Mr. King is yielding to pressure. Very characteristically, he is yielding by almost imperceptible degrees and under a variety of concealments. But it is quite possible that he is yielding.

There are, however, no grounds for the assumption that Mr. King is slowly rising to the occasion, nor that he is beginning to arrive at a late but loyal recognition of his public duty. On the contrary, if he is yielding, it is because the stark needs of the battlefields, backed by the insistence of aroused public opinion, and championed by a worthy group within the Liberal Cabinet are gradually beginning to tell even upon Mr. King's intricate resistance. It is not his attitude that may be changing. It is simply that the decision is being gradually taken out of his hands.

At first sight, there might appear to be no more than tiresome juggling in the wording of the new order in council making the draftees "available" for overseas service. The question naturally arises: Have we not understood that the draftees have always been available for overseas service? Have we not, like Col. Ralston, believed that they were, in fact, "a potential reserve," which could be sent overseas whenever needed?

But when this order in council is examined, certain subtleties begin to emerge. It may be recalled that Mr. King said, when he introduced Bill 80 in the House in 1942, that if ever the need for their use should arise, he would first pass an order-in-council, and call Parliament for its approval. He has now passed the order-in-council and Parliament is to be asked next week to vote on a Government motion phrased in these words: "That this House will aid the Government in its policy of maintaining a vigorous war." It would be typical of Mr. King's tactics to regard the order-in-council as giving him the legal authority and the vote on his vague motion (if carried) as giving him Parliament's approval.

There is little doubt that Mr. King is edging, or being edged, into a position in which he can act. But he is, at the same time, keeping himself free of strict commitments. Though he may be giving himself authority he is at the same time giving others no definite undertakings.

The maintenance of evasion appears strikingly in the statement of Mr. King's reinforcement policy as delivered yesterday in the House by and through Gen. McNaughton. For Gen. McNaughton declared that the Government has no intention of immediately using the draftees, but will continue with further experiments with the campaigns for their voluntary enlistment. But at another point in the same address he stated (with an inconsistency which Col. Ralston was quick to bring out) that the results of such campaigns have not been successful. "I must admit that the results have not been adequate," he said. "I am advised that there are very many N.R.M.A. men who will not volunteer under present circumstances but who are willing to be sent overseas."

Indeed, Gen. McNaughton's appearance in the House has been described by observers as pitiful, so involved has his self-contradictions been.

DISTORTED VIEW OF DRAFT ISSUE.

The writers of two Letters to the Editor which appear in an adjoining column and one which appeared in yesterday's issue appear to us to be taking a completely distorted view of the basic issue over sending draftees overseas. With all due respect for the right of these correspondents and persons of like thinking to their own opinions, their concept of the basic nature of the issues lacks a clear perspective of the essential realities involved.

All three letters attribute the controversy and the demand for immediate despatch of draftees to a deliberate political conspiracy against the Liberal Government. Both specifically and by inference, responsibility for creating the issue without any justification in military necessity is upon the Progressive Conservative Party.

This completely ignores the unquestioned, gent facts of military need for early reinforcements, a need which even Prime Minister King, and General McNaughton do not deny, however much they dispute the necessity of prompt movement of draftees overseas. It completely ignores the entirely non-political, certainly non-Progressive Conservative genesis of the whole issue. The now-debated proposal that the draftees be sent overseas came not from outside critics of the Government, but from within it, from one of its senior and most respected members.

Surely our correspondents would not suggest that Col. Ralston was playing politics, seeking to embarrass and defeat the Government, or trying to besmirch its general record when he made his considered, clear-cut recommendation that overseas conscription be effected. Col. Ralston declared he did so because he felt he had no alternative in view of the urgent need, the lack of sufficient trained volunteers, and the power and pledges of the Government to use draftees if necessary. The Colonel's past record and unimpeachable integrity leave no doubt that he did so in honest conviction that this was the only honorable and realistic course to follow.

It is equally surprising that the letter writers should impute political motives and prejudices to all those who have expressed opinions in favor of immediate overseas conscription, including men now fighting overseas and their relatives at home. Do they also impute political motives to the newspapers which normally support the Liberal Government but which now are urging that Col. Ralston's recommendation be implemented?

come. But it may well be inquired whether these contradictions were due to simple ineptitude, or whether they may not have a deeper significance. The fact may be that the Government is not only trying to say two different things at the one time but is trying to do two different things at the one time. It may be edging towards conscription while trying to appear as though standing still.

Certainly if Mr. King were attempting to edge conscription-wards he would do it in exactly the way in which he is doing it now. For if Mr. King ever gets around to bring in any degree of overseas conscription it will not come through any frank and responsible measures. It will come like a thief in the night and at such an hour as man knoweth not.

But the penalties of these methods will destroy him. It is true that these very methods once had their uses and once brought him their rewards. Yet at their core lay always the element of bad faith. The time of reckoning was bound to come and it is already upon him. He may find himself in the utterly dismal position of a man shunned alike by those he led and by those he opposed. For many of those he led will suspect that he was never really with them but only exploited their feelings; while none of those he opposed will welcome him to their company, suspecting that his change is motivated by simple opportunism. He will make enemies of his friends without making friends of his enemies. The anti-conscriptionists will lose all respect for the man who is deserting them by such stealthy steps; while the conscriptionists will feel no more than that he was gradually compelled to adopt a policy which he resisted, as best he might, to the end.

Mr. King is finding himself faced with the necessity of crossing the Rubicon. But no commander ever approached that dividing-line with longer delay nor greater hesitation. If Mr. King ever does cross the Rubicon, it will not mean that he has made his own decision. It will mean only that he was ultimately carried across these fateful waters.

GAZETTE, MONTREAL, FRIDAY.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Resents 'False Issue'

Sir,—My husband has been severely wounded and is still in hospital in England but I bitterly resent the claims that are being sent the draftees and echoed by made by the Tories and the 8,000 some soldiers who are trained for active service who are the principal issue at stake in this country.

General McNaughton and our Government have built our army and mobilized our magnificent war effort and now, on the eve of victory, may be trusted to take the steps needed to support our armies.

We, soldiers' wives, must look beyond misleading disruptive catch-words to the platforms of the remedies we support. We must remember that the party which is trying to stampede us into an election at this critical moment, is the party which opposed family allowances and all the progressive legislation passed by our Government. They hope to force an election on a false issue and so defeat the desire of the people of Canada for a post-war government which will give us jobs, security and progress. We must not let them succeed.

PAULETTE BUCHANAN.
Montreal November 22.

Political Conspiracy

Sir,—The leader of our forces of liberation, General Eisenhower, put his finger on Canada's conscription issue at a press conference in France yesterday. When asked for his opinion, he replied that he was not going to get involved in Canadian or any other kind of politics.

Surely our military high command should be the judge of whether Canada's N.R.M.A.s are needed more badly than the crying need for more ammunition. The people of Canada gave the Government the right to send men overseas if and when our military leaders so decreed. This policy should not be interfered with.

Mackenzie King made public the small number of Home Defence forces, namely 8,000 out of approximately 68,000, that were eligible for active duty. There appears to be a studied effort on the part of those responsible for this tremendous ballyhoo, to slur over this very important detail.

It is very obvious that the anti-Liberal forces in Canada are making this conscription issue a political instrument with which they are attempting to smash our national unity and bring defeat to the Liberal Party.

Under our present Government, we have made a tremendous contribution to the war, and this obvious attempt to shake the people's faith in our national leaders, should be exposed for what it is—an ugly political manoeuvre, the consequences of which are far reaching enough to impair Canada's future for years to come.

Disrupters of national unity are a menace to Canada. These political opportunists do not care whom they harm. Why then should the pro-Liberal adherents pull their punches?

The Liberal press does not help clarify the matter by remaining passive in their arguments. The real facts are clear and should be printed boldly. The distortion of facts in this conscription issue should not be the means whereby reactionary elements can ride into power over the backs of the present Liberal Government.

HARRY ALLISTER.
Montreal, November 22.

Was private industry informed in advance that by December 1, 1944, aluminum would be free for civilian use and that there would be plenty of labor available? Was private industry instructed to be toolled up and ready to commence work on the production of aluminum goods at that date and guaranteed against loss if there should be a change in the forecast?

Has anything been done to notify the electric iron manufacturers, the refrigerator manufacturers, the radio manufacturers and others of the dates upon which materials and labor will be available for domestic production? Has any plan been made to finance "tooling up" in advance for such production in order that there may be no lag of unemployment and distress between war and peace production?

We have heard repeatedly that there must never be another depression such as we experienced in the thirties, but apparently it is now knocking at our door and the first and, so far as the public is informed only, line of defence in Montreal is the assurance that Selective Service is organized to register the names of 150,000 unemployed.

It would appear that immediate enlightenment is in order and the Parliament, when it has disposed of the conscription issue, should continue in session and act on this important subject of preventing recurrence of mass unemployment.

F. R. CLARKE.
Montreal, November 22.

TEXT OF GEN. McNAUGHTON'S STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT

Ottawa, November 23.—(C)—Text of Defence Minister McNaughton's address to the Commons follows.

The reason for my being here today is to report to the House of Commons the facts concerning reinforcements for the Canadian Army Overseas; to give the House whatever assistance I can in the interpretation of the facts; to state the problems which now exist; to indicate the action which has been taken and the further measures to which are being instituted.

The problem is complicated because time is required to translate action taken in Canada into numbers of fully trained men in the reinforcement pools in the theatres of operations and immediately available for posting to units in the field.

In what I am to say today I have had to remember that the information I shall give goes out to all the world. I have to be very careful indeed that no word of mine will carry new information of value to the enemy. For if this should come about it would bring hazard to our troops in action and prejudice their further operations which is the last thing any of us here would wish to do. I need not, I think, emphasize this grave responsibility. I recognize that this inhibition will result in there being important gaps in the full information I seek to give. I am completely at the disposal of the House should honorable members wish to examine me under circumstances in which I shall be free to give precise answers to questions relating to the Canadian Army. If this is arranged, I shall endeavor to give as complete information as possible.

It is perhaps needless to say that I am not at liberty, in any circumstances, to disclose information affecting Allied armies which we have received under an undertaking that it should be kept strictly secret. Some of this would be interesting for comparison and to develop the basis on which our own figures have been estimated of our own position.

Right at the start I would like to say that there is no difference of opinion as to purpose between my predecessor in the office of Minister of National Defence and myself. We both of us are determined with all the strength we have that our troops in action will not lack for reinforcements to carry forward our part in the war in northwest Europe and in Italy. We intend to march forward with our Allies to crush Germany finally into defeat and to confirm the safety of the peace which follows. There is no doubt about this intent. That has been stated by the Prime Minister on behalf of all in clear, explicit terms.

There is agreement on the establishments of our army overseas which should be kept up in present circumstances. We are agreed as to where our several formations should operate and under which higher command and as to how our command should be organized. I have made no change in any of the arrangements overseas which were made by Col. Ralston.

DIFFERED ON METHODS.

Where my predecessor and I differed was on the methods which should be used to provide the reinforcements needed. In October last he took his stand on the basis that we had to use the possibilities of maintaining our forces overseas by voluntary enlistment. At that time I took the stand that our traditional system which we had used throughout this war and long before, was capable of providing the results we sought and of producing them in time; provided always that it was given the full public support which was requisite.

I submit that it would have been very dangerous indeed to hazard a change until all measures proper to the existing method had been developed to the full and it had become clear and evident to all that they would not suffice.

To do so might well not have increased the rate of flow of reinforcements but might instead have reduced it most seriously. This is what I think would have happened if voluntary service had been abandoned for compulsion in the last days of last month when the question had first come up.

Since then conditions have altered, public attention has been riveted on these matters. The paramount need of reinforcements in adequate supply has been recognized throughout our land from coast to coast. For myself I frankly state I prefer our present system in its application to the conditions we have in Canada but I have not excluded the other method in circumstances in which it is absolutely necessary.

Since I took office early in November, I have pressed the application of the voluntary system by every means. At the same time I have pressed forward the application

Then followed the radio address made by the Prime Minister on Wednesday November 8. He covered again the points I had previously been authorized to make.

I thought that this appeal addressed to the men and the other measures we were taking would have the effect desired and that, as well, we would have the united support of all our people, and that shortly our difficulties in finding men trained as infantry would be largely over.

I drew the policy defined in the Prime Minister's speech to the attention of all our senior commanders in Canada. I directed that it be adopted forthwith, and I asked their help in every way.

Later these officers met me in Ottawa and I was able to explain to them personally the objectives which we should reach if the numbers of reinforcements for overseas were to be adequate to meet the Army's needs.

I was able to hear at first hand their views on the problem and discussed with them the means of removing the difficulties which had operated to deter N.R.M.A. men from converting to general service. I undertook that these matters would be corrected and this has in large part been done.

The district commanders told me quite frankly they had not much hope that our requirements would be met but they loyally undertook to make another effort. This they have now done, and I must admit that the results have not been adequate. I am advised that there are very many N.R.M.A. men who will volunteer under present circumstances but who are quite willing to be sent overseas.

I think that I should now state our problem in terms of numbers and time.

First, let me say that in total for all arms and services overseas there is no present shortage. Moreover, no overall shortage is expected in the period for which the figures have already been forecast which extends well on into next summer.

Unfortunately, however, it is not in totals that our present problem can be expressed for men are not quickly transferrable from one arm of the service to another, and even with time, there is a limit beyond which remustering cannot be carried out.

The difficulty we have arises in the infantry, for it is in this arm that we have unfortunately experienced heavy casualties in Italy and in northwest Europe since D-Day. In total for all arms the casualties have been very close to the estimates, but in infantry they have been heavier than the forecasts on which our plans for reinforcements were based.

SHORTAGES ESTIMATED.

Should casualties continue at the higher rates, there is a possible prospective shortage of fully trained infantry, which may come late in January or in February next. Against this there will be, at that time, large numbers of infantry in the depots whose training has approached completion and who will be available for posting to the units shortly thereafter in the following month. We must remember that our figures are forecasts and estimates and so we cannot expect a high order of precision.

There are many uncertainties one way or another, such as sailing dates delayed by adverse weather, quarantine for minor contagions, etc., which may affect particular groups of the men concerned and for which allowance must be made. The figures I am using to assess the situation are very definitely on the safe side and I think it well that this should be so, for if there is any error it should be on the safe side.

In all the figures which are used the rates of wastage and the scales of future activity are those which have been arrived at by our own officers in the field and confirmed by the theatre commanders.

Later on in the spring or early summer the forecasts show another period when the infantry reserves behind the troops might become low. In this period the intake into the pool of trained infantry reinforcements depends on the numbers now in the training team and on the conversions to general service from the fully or partially trained infantry in the N.R.M.A.

The number of volunteers in the training stream is known. The number of conversions from the N.R.M.A. to general service has been estimated at the average rate of recent months.

The forecasts have not as yet been carried through the summer and all I can now say is that the situation then will depend on the rate of recruiting for general service in December and in the following months.

I look forward to placing before you the actual figures up to the end of May, inclusive, under conditions in which they can be disclosed.

future must be strictly related to the nature of the task which remains to be completed and so I shall, if I may, give the House an appreciation of the nature of the battles which lie before the Allied armies of which our Canadian troops now form an important part.

We now, both in Italy and in northwest Europe, are up against fortified zones of great depth and strength with every obstacle and device to hamper our advance which the German mind has been able to conceive.

In northwest Europe hundreds of thousands of slave labor have been employed for years to create the fixed defences of the West Wall. They have been carefully sited by the skilled engineers of the German Army to give them every advantage of terrain. They are provided with all the accessories to make life easy for those in garrison: heavy concrete emplacements for machine and anti-tank guns, bomb-proof shelters for resting personnel, elaborate roads and railways for rapid transfer of reserves from place to place, deeply buried cables to maintain certain intercommunication, huge dumps of food and munition and spares and replacements for guns and tanks and other gear.

We can take it that these defences are provided with everything which could be thought of which would be of use and every day they are being strengthened by the forced labor of the German people.

SUPPLIES BIG FACTOR.

To break through these lines we must turn to siege warfare of the most intense character and above all else we must have guns and shells in lavish quantities.

We learned in the last war and again in this that in siege warfare there is little opportunity for manoeuvre. When we attack we must use vast quantities of shells to crush out of existence wide sections of the enemy's defence and to paralyze his garrisons and so free the way for the advances of our infantry closely supported by the fire of mobile guns.

By reason of the immensity of the volume of fire required and the time taken to get the ammunition forward, these battles go in phases marked by short periods of intense activity and longer periods of quiet in between.

The conditions in northwest Europe will, I think, approximate very closely to those we experienced in France and Flanders in the later phases of the First World War. We will have to turn back to this period for guidance on the various rates to be expected in the various arms and services.

It is probable that the rates will be more uniform throughout all troops in the forward areas. We must be very careful that the remustering from other arms which we have been carrying out to make up for the higher rates in the infantry in the mobile war since D-Day is not carried too far. Fortunately, as I have said, we have no present anxiety as to the adequacy of the reserves in arms other than infantry, but the situation must be closely watched.

So with the business of siege warfare in front of us it becomes most important to remember that the supply of shells and munitions is a vital necessity which must be met.

The call has gone out to multiply the rate of production several fold and this must be done as a first priority on our industrial effort. I believe that the effort which is required can be made without diversion of men needed for reinforcements. We can divert men from less essential industries. We can use many more women. We can use some of the personnel in the categories who are not in the categories fit for service overseas.

I have proposals in this connection which I hope to raise in later discussions to arrive at an effective use for large numbers of men who have come into the army in Canada, both general service and N.R.M.A., who never can be employed in battle.

The only other observation I would like to make in connection with this vital industrial effort in the production of shells and guns and certain other gear is that we in Canada are now a great source of supply for all our Allies engaged with us in battle in Europe.

In some things we are the only source and it is therefore most important that this industry be not disturbed for any reason, or otherwise there will be most serious consequences for all. In siege warfare you have to pay for victory either in shells or the lives of men and very great quantities of shells must be expended if there is to be any progress at all.

N.R.M.A. INVESTIGATED

Next attention to the N.R.M.A.

forward. They cease at once to be members of the N.R.M.A. and pass to the depots and holding units to be given the final training and instruction which they require.

They become part of that great band who serve Canada by their own free will and whose pride it is to go where duty calls and needs dictate.

The position of N.R.M.A. personnel who do not convert to general service is not so simple. It had been my hope that once our vital need had been made clear—as it has been—and once opportunities had been given for considerable explanation—as they have been, that their number would have been very materially reduced.

The first business is to ensure that all who are physically fit and likely to become efficient soldiers are brought into units in balanced composition to act as a reserve to meet possible future requirements for combat operations. The arrangements for this require few changes in the existing organization and these can be effected quickly.

The elimination of units, formations, headquarters and local establishments which, in an earlier phase of the war, were required for strictly home defence, and the transfer of the personnel thus freed to other duties in keeping with our present need; the freeing of personnel in appropriate medical categories from home establishments, from extraneous employment, or their recall from leave are other matters to be attended to.

This is being done as rapidly as individual cases can be reviewed and replacements provided wherever this is necessary in the public interest of the prosecution of the war.

EXAMPLE CITED

For example, some hundreds of men were detailed some weeks ago to assist in the construction of the new hospital at Sunnybrook. These could have been ordered back to their units but then this work, which is most urgent in the interests of our returned soldiers who have suffered wounds, would have been delayed.

Therefore we have chosen to keep them on the job for the moment and replace all who are physically fit for combat duties by men in a lower category.

There are other tasks of national importance in the shell factories and in construction which are being dealt with in like manner.

The purpose is to concentrate in N.R.M.A. units for potential combat duties all men who are physically fit and deemed likely to make efficient combat soldiers. This is a first priority and it is being dealt with as such. The standard of training will be brought to the high level we insisted on in England.

There are a considerable number of men in the N.R.M.A. whose physical fitness is below the standard required for first line combatant duties but who are, in all other respects, capable of rendering useful service in the field, in base installations, on the line of communications and in the forward area behind the battle fronts.

In the British Army these men are grouped into the Corps of Laborers to act as a reserve of labor for the engineers for the construction of roads and railways and aerodromes and field fortifications and similar works; to man the base depots for the loading of food and ammunition; to help in the repair establishments and generally to do unskilled labor whenever required to set free the combat troops from these ancillary tasks.

Canadian employment companies are also being organized. The military side of this training is not extensive.

It is from this employment corps that we propose to discharge any requirements for help on works of national importance to the prosecution of the war which we are required to undertake.

In this arrangement you will, I know, agree that two safeguards are very necessary. The first that the tasks requested are really of national importance; the second that by undertaking to do them with our employment companies we are not depriving anyone in Canada of gainful employment they otherwise would have.

I am in no position in the Defence Department to give any consideration which is required to the application of these important safeguards to tasks other than those which are carried out under the Defence Department for strictly military purposes, and so we are asking the Minister of Reconstruction to undertake the first responsibility, and the Minister of Labor the second. Until we have certificates from these departments, the work will not be undertaken.

These certificates may be revoked at any time by the ministers concerned to meet the changing

which will be of benefit in training and which will make a considerable contribution to war effort.

ONLY ARMY PAY ALLOWED

It is perhaps needless to say that only the pay and allowances provided for in military regulations will be allowed, and that no scale than is given our troops overseas.

There are a number of categories of men in the N.R.M.A. who are neither suitable for combat units nor for the employment companies.

I refer to those who have come physically unfit and have proposed should be considered individually and that those who are below the category for military duty should be discharged.

There are others in the physical categories who, by reason of their technical or other qualifications, should be placed in industry to aid in this great effort which is required. These we propose to place in a reserve, which can be released from military duties at short notice to recall.

I have dealt with the N.R.M.A. in some considerable detail because it presents a problem of great difficulty which cannot be resolved by any single measure.

Now may I return to the question which brings anxiety to all of us today. I mean the provision of the additional reinforcements required to ensure the effective support of our units and formations overseas in the field and to give them the reserves which they will need to carry forward the great battles which lie ahead.

It is absolutely necessary to the confidence of our fighting formations in the European theatres that there be a substantial reserve reinforcements made available overseas. The absence of such a reserve might mean casualties that would not otherwise be incurred. The lives of our men in the front lines must be guarded in every way that is dependent upon action which can be taken here.

The numbers required to make up the reserve that is necessary are larger than could be provided in time by the volunteer conversion of trained and fit personnel of our N.R.M.A. men to the general service.

I have said that except for some 16,000 men we are able to meet all requirements forward voluntarily. I have said that it is our purpose to maintain the voluntary system in the limit.

I have stated that 5,000 additional trained infantry must be available early in December to safeguard our position at the end of January. That another 5,000 must be forward in January, and some 6,000 in succeeding months.

I have brought these facts before my colleagues in the Cabinet, and order-in-council has been passed extending the service of this number of men to the European theatres of operations.

TO BE USED IF 'NECESSARY'

This power will be used only if the extent necessary to make the numbers of reinforcements required.

MR. SPEAKER:

In closing, I would just like to express my appreciation to my predecessor in office. He left me most of his personal staff, and whose loyal aid I could not possibly have carried through these war duties of these last three years as deeply obliged to him as I am for all that they have done to serve the public interest in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER:

I have taken the situation found it. I have tried with all my strength to work forward from the hope I am in some measure doing some contribution to the war effort. We all must serve the war effort in the great task we are doing to discharge our just part in bringing the war in Europe to a successful conclusion, and in guarding the peace which follows.

If we enter this new era we will be strong and happy and all that is required to our happiness and welfare of our people to heights as yet undreamed of.

Highly Trained Draftees Ready to Go Overseas, But Not as Volunteers

VANCOUVER, Nov. 20 (CP).—High-ranking officers of the Canadian Army's 6th Division, at a press conference here today, said they do not believe overseas troops can be adequately reinforced by volunteers.

The press conference was held just prior to a private meeting of the officers who were summoned to Vancouver by Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, General Officer Commanding in Chief, Pacific Command, to plan a campaign outlined last week by Defense Minister McNaughton calculated to reinforce overseas troops by having home defense troops volunteer for service overseas.

The general opinion expressed was that, instead of volunteering, such troops would prefer to await orders from the Government to go overseas. Several officers said their men were "ready to go" once these orders were given.

The whole of the 6th Division, a large proportion of which is composed of home defense troops, is stationed in British Columbia. The officers said virtually all the home defense troops in the division have received full combat training.

Troops in Good Shape

Brig. R. H. Beattie, Brigade Commander at Nanaimo, B.C., said his troops are in splendid shape and ready to go overseas.

"I have in that brigade some of the finest soldiers in Canada," Brig. Beattie said. "They are just waiting the call from the Government that they must go, for they feel that it is the responsibility of the Government to implement its own legislation."

Brig. A. R. Roy, another brigade commander, said some home defense troops on the verge of "going active" had volunteered in previous recruiting drives. Those who remained "were the men who are determined to wait for conscription."

Brig. G. A. McArthur, who returned to a Canadian post six weeks ago, said he has studied the home defense situation carefully since being transferred from overseas duty, and discussed the problem with his commanding officers on many occasions, and as a result his opinion is that a campaign for volunteers will not succeed.

Lt.-Col. G. A. McCarter of Vernon said:

"I have asked these lads time and again why they refuse to volunteer for overseas service. Their replies are always the same. They are waiting for the Government to give the order and they are ready to obey."

Lt.-Col. C. A. Scott of Courtenay said:

"If the Government would only assume its responsibility, I am convinced this whole mess could be cleaned up."

Lt.-Col. Jock MacGregor said: "Home defense soldiers should not be expected at this stage of the game to make up their own minds. They are ready to go, and will give a good account of themselves when they do go, but they are convinced the Government should tell them to go."

Col. Masson Demands Move

Windsor, Nov. 20 (Special).—Lt.-Col. George Y. Masson, recently returned to civilian life in Windsor, has demanded immediate conscription be inaugurated by the Federal Government to ensure "adequate and properly trained reinforcements." He made the request in a letter forwarded Hon. Norman A. McLarty, Secretary of State.

His letter says in part: "Never have we needed fearless, wise statesmen more and politicians less than in this present crisis over the issue of sending adequate and properly trained reinforcements to our fighting men and seeing to it that these reinforcements are there on time."

"It is my duty to urge you to give your support to those men as effectively and quickly as possible. You are in the position where what you do yourself will have considerable influence on the course of events."

Quickly as Possible

"My opinion is that NRMA personnel should be despatched as overseas reinforcements as quickly as their state of training will permit."

"It was my good fortune to be part of overseas army and to command a regiment for two years. I know only too well that our overseas forces represent the finest group of citizens we have in this country. (Col. Masson commanded an armored unit overseas for two years and, after returning home command posts with armored forces at Camp Borden and Dundurn, Sask.).

"When I was returned to training duties in Canada two years ago it was with a personal knowledge of the inadequacy of our reinforcements to meet calculated wastages, and also that the reinforcements were then receiving were not trained up to a standard which would make them immediately available for combined training."

Reported His Findings

"On reporting for duty in Canada I brought such matters to the attention of my commanders and followed through with rather emphatic letters, which were forwarded to Ottawa. As far as I could judge, no action was taken. It was clear to me that the only answer to the reinforcement problem as it was outlined to me at CMHQ was conscription. That was two years ago, and the situation is now apparently much worse. Then the withholding of conscription meant only a delay in collective training and the despatching of partially trained men to fill shipping space as it became available—serious enough I will admit from the regimental commander's point of view, but it didn't mean men's lives as it does today."

"I shall not take up your time outlining the various phases of my activities in the Battle of Canada. Sufficient will be to tell you it was a losing battle from the start, against the complacency of training officers with little or no overseas or regimental experience; their antagonism to returning overseas personnel, and the breaking down of the Selection Board principle of appointing senior officers to commands, with disastrous results in the training centre of the Canadian Armored Corps. That is all a matter of record, and is particularly well known by Brig. Spencer, vice-adjutant-general."

"Very Ugly Picture" Now

"However, now is no time to look back; now facts must be faced as they exist today, and it calls for immediate action. Surely the only right thing to do now is to restore the confidence and trust of our overseas troops that Canada, the Canada they love and serve, backs them up to the limit. It is not yet too late for their Government to back them up adequately, if prompt and vigorous action is taken. I need hardly point out that it is a very ugly picture we have been looking at lately."

"While at Camp Borden, and again while at Dundurn, Sask., I came in contact with NRMA personnel, and from many conversations gathered that two-thirds of them remain inactive because they say they are doing what the Government requires them to do, and that it is not up to them to incur the displeasure of next of kin by making a decision which they feel is making a decision to make. You up to the Government to make. You can't argue against that case very effectively when they put it to you in this manner."

In Case You're Interested

"The drafting of men is the only fair and square way the thing can be done; and moreover it is the only sure and the only prompt way of doing it. The drafting method is based on the rock bottom principle that the country being at war, its cause is the cause of all men, all families, all parts of the country equally—that the duty imposed is on all alike and that the country must secure the men needed from among the men available, selecting those most available and exempting those whose services here are most essential to the obvious interests of the country."

"Those who know they ought to go—the war having already gone under the voluntary plan, it remains for the country to

step in and, on an organized, equitable plan, do the selecting of the further forces required. It is an infinitely squalid, fairer and better plan than putting reliance on exhortations that would take away fathers from families and boys in their teens and leave the country's best fighting material out of action."

To which we say: Hear! Hear!

This stern realism could have been written of the present reinforcement crisis, but it was not. It appeared in the Toronto Daily Star—then under present ownership—on Dec. 6, 1917, to urge Liberal members of Parliament to the support of compulsory overseas service."

The fundamentals being the same now as then, it is reprinted as a guide in the current crisis.

A Soldier Writes Home

We Figured Andy M'Naughton Would Be Last to Let Us Down

Below is part of a letter written from Holland by a corporal in the Canadian Army who has been overseas for four years. It is written to his parents, who reside in a Toronto suburb. For the serviceman's protection, his name is not being published.

"Well, from the middle of nowhere I am writing you this letter. Today is Armistice Day of 1918, but believe me you would never know it. For three days it has been so noisy one can't hear himself think."

"We were a lot of very disappointed boys over here. We figured Andy McNaughton would be the last guy in the world to let us down. No fooling, we could use those 70,000 zombies that are over there."

"Col. Ralston didn't really realize how things were until he had a look around over here himself. I guess if something doesn't happen soon

we won't be known as the 1st Canadian Army. And I am telling you, Canada can be darned proud of her First Army."

"With the help of the people at home, who have given us this, the best equipment in the world, we have made a name for ourselves that even Jerry respects, judging from the opinion of some of the Germans we have captured."

"We hope and pray there will be reinforcements sent soon."

In the letter accompanying the above excerpt the mother writes: "He served under Gen. McNaughton for a long time and was always writing home his praises. Our son, as thousands of other boys, has everything to want to live for—a young wife and a 4-year-old son he has never seen. He was a radio technician, with a bright future ahead. And believe me, it's no wonder we here at home are desperate at the treatment our brave boys are receiving from our Government."

Premier King to Outline House Procedure Today

By KENNETH C. ORAGG

Ottawa, Nov. 20 (Staff).—A brief, introductory sitting to a session whose length has been estimated variously from two to 10 days is forecast for Wednesday when Prime Minister King is expected to lay the foundation for Parliamentary consideration of the reinforcement issue.

Up to a late hour today, there was considerable reason to believe that not even Cabinet members had been taken into Mr. King's full confidence on his plans.

It has been learned that the Prime Minister has advised Opposition Leader Graydon and C.C.F. Leader Coldwell, first Opposition leaders to arrive here, that he would outline to them procedure for the sitting by Tuesday morning.

Look for Correspondence

It is generally considered that Mr. King, on Wednesday, will table the correspondence dealing with Col. J. L. Ralston's resignation on Nov. 1 as Minister of Defense, and may outline his position in relation to the resignation and his stand for retaining the voluntary plan on reinforcements as opposed to accepting his former Minister's recommendation for compulsion.

It is predicted that a joint Commons and Senate sitting may be held on Thursday at which Defense Minister McNaughton will declare his position. It is suggested that a debate proper may be opened on Friday, but House Leaders frankly admit that they have not the slightest idea how Mr. King will project

the debate and are skeptical of him doing it with a blunt demand for a vote of confidence in the Administration.

Up to a late hour, only 22 members had checked in at their Parliament Hill offices, but reservations indicate that a full tide will flow in on the night and early morning trains. Among the early arrivals is a frank note of criticism that is caustic of the Government's position and of the Prime Minister himself.

One Simple Question

One bitter forecast of Mr. King's plans suggested that if, and when, he does place a confidence motion before Parliament, that under the verbiage will be nothing more than a simple question: "Are you in favor of reinforcements?"

"I am certain," said the member, "that Mr. King would be prepared to go to the country in an election on such an issue."

In harmony with the spirit of that suggestion, a new story is going the rounds of the Capital that Canada now has two Defense Ministers, Gen. McNaughton and War Services Minister L. R. LaFleche. The latter is being dubbed Defense Minister for French-Canada, on the basis of his active interest and work this past five days in laying the

foundation for a recruiting drive in Quebec.

He issued a statement at Montreal that "in short order recruiting offices will be opened in Quebec Province, especially for the benefit of volunteers willing to reinforce French-Canadian regiments overseas."

Only Course, Says Legion

One of the major developments of the day was the release by the Canadian Legion of a letter that is going to all members and signed by Dominion President Alex Walker, urging Commons to take a stand which, although it might affect their political standing, for conscription for overseas service "as the only way in which we can adequately fulfill our responsibility as a nation to our fighting men and to our Allies."

One thing is definite. Every member here is concerned deeply—and that includes the leaders in opposition—with the deep implication of former Defense Minister Ralston's statement of Nov. 12, when he said:

"My recommendation was not accepted, nor could I get any assurance that the Government as a whole considered that the Prime Minister's speeches committed the Government to this course."

Interviews with members suggest but one thing: There is the question of reinforcement urgency, and how the reinforcements can be obtained. But in addition there has been a question of principle raised by Col. Ralston that demands the fullest explanation to each member of Parliament from the Prime Minister who is inferentially accused, with his Cabinet colleagues, of plain, ordinary bad faith.

The Progressive Conservatives and the other groups in opposition will caucus tomorrow, but there is still not a definite word of Mr.

Voluntary Enlistment Should Solve Problem, McNaughton's Opinion

Ottawa, Nov. 20 (CP).—Defense Minister McNaughton asked in a statement today that the method of voluntary enlistment to provide reinforcements for Canadian forces overseas "be given a fair trial," and expressed belief that the problem "will be solved."

Text of Gen. McNaughton's statement follows:

"I refer to the statement to the press which I issued on Nov. 16 reporting the results of the conference which I had on Tuesday, Nov. 4, with the general officer commanding Pacific command and the officers commanding all military districts."

(The Minister said then that the principal matter dealt with at the conference was the provision of reinforcements, and particularly the question of trained reinforcements for the infantry, and added that measures to bring the conclusions reached into operation were decided.)

"I refer also," his statement continued, "to a reply which I gave to a question asked me by a newspaper reporter the previous evening in which, after repeating a rumor which had become current to the effect that I had altered my views as to the method which should be followed in providing reinforcements for our forces overseas, he went on to ask if, in fact, this was the case."

Belief Confirmed

"I replied that this was not the case, that I had set forth my views in recent public speeches in Armory and before the Canadian Legion in Ottawa, and that information given me at the conference just concluded had confirmed my belief more than ever that continuation of a voluntary policy would provide the reinforcements."

"These statements have been quoted and requoted, sometimes in whole and sometimes in part, and given various interpretations by various people. This had resulted in great confusion. I therefore take this opportunity to clarify the situation."

"At the conference referred to, the G.O.C. Pacific Command and the district officers commanding were invited to report the situation and to give 'their considered views as to the steps which are open to be taken and the results which would follow.'"

"From their completely frank statement, given from their intimate contact with the problem, I was able to confirm the existence of a number of factors which had operated to deter or prevent men in the NRMA from coming forward to volunteer for overseas service. I informed the officers gathered at the conference of the action already initiated to correct these adverse factors."

Assured of Endeavor

"I was given assurance that the officers concerned would, on re-

turn to their stations, make every endeavor to provide the numbers of men required by voluntary conversion from the NRMA or by enlistments, or by freeing men from Home Defense and other local establishments who had already undertaken the obligation of General Service Overseas."

"Despite the very serious difficulties which were frankly stated, but having this assurance of full support in another endeavor to solve the problem, I express my own belief that the problem will be solved."

"What I now ask is that this method of voluntary enlistment be given a fair trial."

Commons Preamble

Predicted Premier King Will Argue That Col. Ralston Was Wrong

By WILLIAM MARCHINGTON

Ottawa, Nov. 20 (Staff).—When the House of Commons meets on Wednesday, the Prime Minister will seek to convince his followers that Hon. J. L. Ralston was guilty of an error of judgment when he said that the Canadian Army Overseas cannot be maintained at full strength by voluntary enlistment.

Furthermore, Mr. King will endeavor to persuade the Liberal members that the new Minister of Defense, Gen. McNaughton, is fortified with opinions from district officers commanding throughout Canada that the reinforcements pool can be supplied with adequately trained men in sufficient numbers without resorting to compulsion.

When the Government meets Parliament the Prime Minister will have assurance from Gen. McNaughton that the results already obtained from his recent appeal for volunteers are sufficient to justify the hope that it will be unnecessary for the Government to invoke conscription of manpower for service overseas.

The military districts of Canada already are being combed for men who are now doing clerical work and performing other duties on the home front. The idea is to impress Parliament with the McNaughton idea that the reinforcement crisis can be solved without extreme measures. It is hoped to have, before Wednesday, a substantial increase in the number of Canadians going active, as compared with the enrolments during recent months of the Ralston regime, in order that Liberal members who are inclined to be restless will be willing to give McNaughton time to show what he can do.

The Minister of Defense issued a statement today in which he said he had been given assurance by district officers commanding that they would make every endeavor to provide the number of men required by voluntary conversion from the National Resources Mobilization Act or by enlistments, or by freeing men from home defense and other local establishments who had already undertaken the obli-

gation of General service overseas. How well trained these men are in the use of Bren guns, Platt guns and other weapons is known only to their officers. The immediate purpose of the Government is to discredit Col. Ralston whose statement about the urgency of the need for recruits has stirred the whole country.

Meanwhile the Prime Minister and his Cabinet are exploring the possibility of bringing Gen. McNaughton before Parliament in order that members of the House may hear at first hand about his plan to secure voluntary reinforcements. It is argued that, while the Minister is not a member of the House, there may be some way of having him appear either before the committee of the whole or at a public meeting of a select committee, in which he could explain his policy and be questioned by the members.

Among private members and Senators and even Ministers the notion prevails that a secret sitting would not be approved by the public. It is pointed out that no question of national security is involved in any statements that might be made about the need for reinforcements and the plans contemplated for securing them. Two front bench Progressive Conservative members, Hon. George Black of the Yukon and T. L. Church of Toronto, already have stated that they will refuse to attend any sitting that is not open to the public.

The resignation of Col. Ralston and the reasons he gave for that action have caused a serious fissure in the Liberal Party. One prominent Ontario Liberal today asked: "What is the purpose of the big financial program of the Government if it is not to maintain our overseas forces at full strength and equip them adequately with modern weapons?"

300 Hamilton Women Arm M.P. With Petition Urging Conscription

Hamilton, Nov. 20 (Staff).—A de-
termined stand in favor of overseas
conscription immediately to back
up Canadian troops fighting on
European battlefronts was taken
this afternoon by Hamilton women
at a meeting called by the Muni-
cipal Chapter, I.O.D.E., the Local
Council of Women and auxiliaries of
the Hamilton garrison units.

Principal action taken by the
gathering, attended by around 300,
was the signing and presentation
was the signing and presentation
of a petition addressed
Hamilton, of a petition addressed
to the House of Commons, and
to the House of Commons, and
urging the passing of Bill 80 for
overseas conscription.

The petition, after referring to
Prime Minister King's recent state-
ment that 8,000 fully trained men
of the 70,000 draftees are immedi-
ately available, said, "It is, there-
fore, the earnest prayer of your
humble petitioners that this force
shall be at once despatched over-
seas to the aid of our men now
fighting at the front; and it is
their further prayer that, since
the speedy victory can be gained at
the least cost of life only by a steady
and adequate flow of reinforce-
ments, and without such reinforce-
ments must be needlessly lost. The
policy of total conscription of man-
power for overseas service to en-
sure support to our fighting forces
now, and until victory is won, be
made effective forthwith as pro-
vided by Bill 80, and approved by
the majority of the people of Can-
ada recording their vote in the
plebiscite of 1942."

Leaves Said Conditional

Shortly after Mrs. C. L. Brown,
regent of Municipal Chapter, I.O.
D.E., who presided, opened the
meeting for discussion from the
floor, a woman whose son is in
Italy said she heard from him re-
cently that the Canadians there
are getting leaves "on condition
they sign up for service in the
Pacific."

There was a collective gasp at
this point from the audience, which
included other relatives of men
overseas. Later the woman pro-
duced the letter, and gave it to
Mr. Ross for investigation of the
matter in Ottawa. He read the
following passage: "It seems the
boys are to be given an opportunity
to volunteer for service in the
Pacific, and those that do are to be
given leaves." Mr. Ross promised
to take this up with the proper
authorities.

Several Speakers

Strong speeches urging concerted
action on the overseas conscrip-
tion issue were made by Mrs.
Brown, who stressed the fact that
he I.O.D.E. was neutral on political
matters, and this question was
above political considerations; Mrs.
James Roberts, president of the
Local Council of Women; Mrs. E.
Vaughan Wright, president, Ladies'
Auxiliary, R.H.L.I.; A. F. Smees,
president, United Council of Vet-
erans, and Mr. Ross, member for
Hamilton East.

The latter reiterated his pledge
voiced in a speech Saturday that he
would "weigh all the facts, and
when I vote it will be in the in-
terests of the men overseas and of
Canada." He said frankly he did
not know all the facts, which no
doubt will be placed before the
special session of the House Wednes-
day.

seas shall be supplied with the
necessary reinforcements."

Mr. Breithaupt was replying to a
Legion request that he state his
position.

He said he intended to go to Ot-
tawa on Wednesday, when Parlia-
ment re-assembles, "with this
thought uppermost in my mind," and
added that the Legion's representa-
tions "fall on very friendly and
sympathetic ears."

Veterans Would Enlist

Shawinigan Falls, Que., Nov. 20
(CP).—The Shawinigan Falls
branch of the Canadian Legion has
forwarded a resolution to Prime
Minister Mackenzie King offering
the total membership of the branch
as reinforcements for active service
overseas.

The resolution said that the mem-
bership "consisting of war veterans
past the crest of years suitable for
active service" felt it "our loyal and
patriotic duty to offer ourselves as
reinforcements for our Canadian
brothers now fighting overseas,"
and resolved that members of the
branch "be accepted en masse."

May Reopen Centre

Ottawa, Nov. 20 (CP).—The army
has "under consideration" the re-
opening of the training centre at
Cornwall, Ont., for the instructing
of home defense troops, it was
learned today. First opened in 1940
when compulsory training was in-
stituted, the camp has been closed
since early in 1942.

Flea To Navy Minister

Kingston, Nov. 20 (Special).—A
petition signed by 600 women of
Kingston and district has been for-
warded to Navy Minister Macdonald
asking that draftees be sent over-
seas. One woman left her bed at
4 a.m. and came from Titchborne
to Kingston for the purpose of sig-
ning the petition.

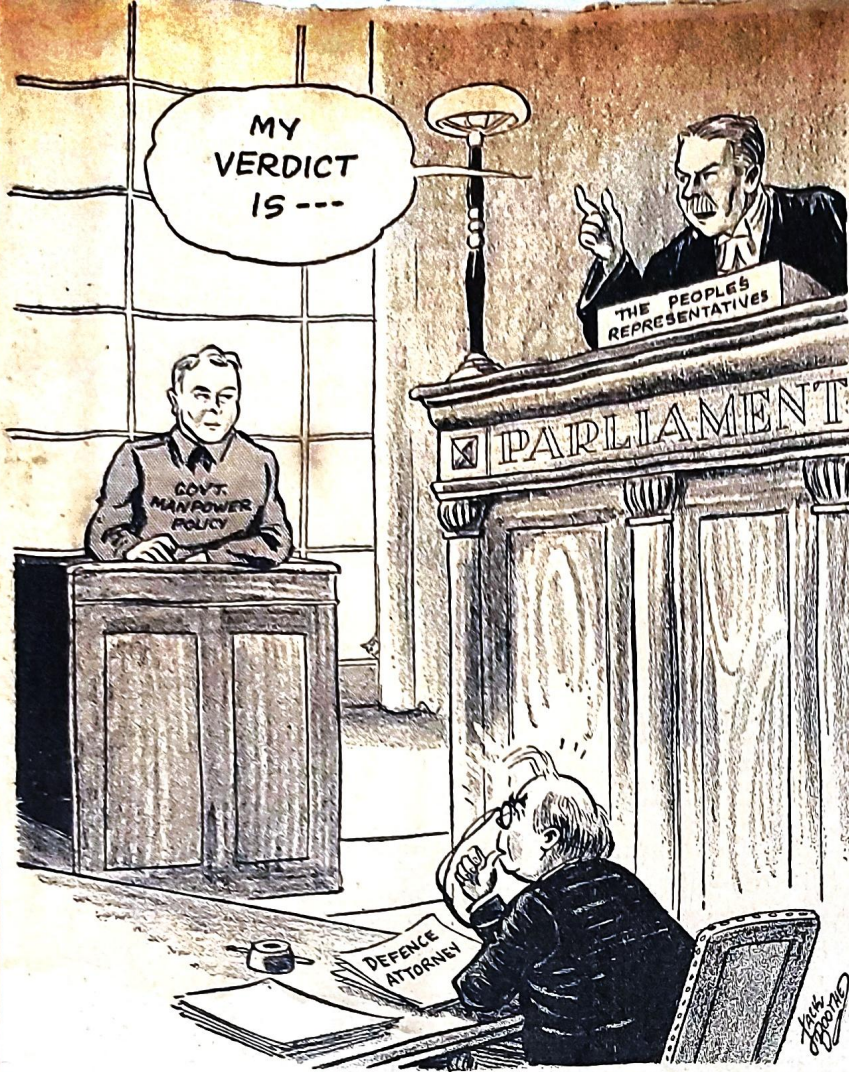
Reasons Inadequate

Walkerton, Nov. 20 (Special).—
Introduction of full conscription is
called for in a resolution passed by
Branch 102 of the Canadian Legion.
"The reasons advanced by the Rt.
Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King for not
enforcing immediate conscription
are totally insufficient," the re-
solution states.

Other resolutions carried deplored
"the attitude of Hon. A. G. L. Mc-
Naughton in deserting the cause of
his former comrades" and com-
gratulate "the Hon. Col. Ralston
on his firm and honest stand on
conscription, which stands as the
support of all true Canadians."

Liberal Favors Action

Kitchener, Nov. 20 (CP).—L.
Breithaupt, Liberal member of
Parliament for Waterloo North, has
informed the local branch of the
Canadian Legion that he is de-
termined "the men serving over-



'This Job Must Be Done First'

As one who has served for over four years as a senior officer in the reserve battalion of his regiment, I feel it my duty at this critical time to express what is in my own mind, and what, I think, must be in the minds of many others across Canada who are in the same position as myself.

The urgent question of adequate reinforcements for our army overseas is not a political question. It is, above all else, a moral question, striking at the very root of our national life and our national honor. It is likewise a challenge to the individual honor and honesty of every Canadian. No question which involves the life or death of one single Canadian soldier can be regarded as a political question.

Sufficient information has now been made public to show that the need for reinforcements is immediate and vital, and that trained soldiers in substantial numbers are available in Canada for this purpose.

Those who have served in the reserve battalions feel a particular sense of responsibility at the present time. That responsibility is to do everything within our power to see that the officers and men who joined up and went overseas through our units are not to suffer through lack of reinforcements.

Pledge Still Stands

Most of the reserve units have first battalions of their regiments in the field. Hundreds of the present members of those first battalions have gone forward from reserve battalions. We know these men. They began their military careers with us. In many cases we got them in the army, trained them, and then sent them away to battle with the full assurance that we would stand by them to the limit and never let them down. That pledge was made, and stands equally strong for the many more thousands of our brave men who joined the overseas army without first serving in the reserve. That pledge was made because we believed it spoke the mind of the people of Canada as a whole.

drafftees in Canada unless these drafftees volunteer to fight.

Is the pledge to support our fighting men to be redeemed?

The answer rests with the Parliament of Canada at its forthcoming session. There comes a time in the life of every free nation when some great occasion arises which challenges the very basis of its democratic way of life. Such an occasion is upon Canada now.

The present issue transcends all party ties. If each member of Parliament faces the facts and is guided by his conscience, there will be no doubt as to the result. The will of the people can assert itself through their Parliamentary representatives.

But if hypocrisy is to supplant honesty; if "party" is to supersede "country," and if political fortune is to outweigh all else—then the will of the people counts for naught.

Upon each member of Parliament rests the solemn responsibility of choosing between what is right and what is expedient. Honor, courage, truth and right—all these are at stake!

A Poignant Incident

Last month one of the officers who served with me in the reserve and then went overseas wrote home to his wife in these words:

"I cannot tell you how much I long to be home. Last night and this morning have been very long. We are in a little cellar, and the noise above is pretty bad and things are hot. It is dark and wet, and I am writing by the light of a candle and can hardly see. But I am very happy—for I realize now that the job over here must be done first."

The next day he was killed in action and is buried at Antwerp.

That poignant incident is but one of many. It brings home to us all the sacrifices which are being made for us daily by the gallant men in the fighting line. It is courage like that which is winning the fight for freedom.

"The job over here must be done first." Let us remember that message. Surely here in Canada the job for us is to ensure that those brave men shall not suffer and die because of our failure to fulfil our pledge. This supreme job is before Canada now, and must be faced by Parliament this week. Let us see that this job is "done first."

Conscription Favored In Peace as Well as War

It is unfortunate that the Hon. Col. Ralston, former Minister of National Defense, did not take his stand on the question of conscription three or four years earlier. It may take a year or a year and a half to introduce and put into operation conscription, organize and equip the forces for battle, train them, dispose of applications for exemption and transport the force. By that time Germany may be beaten or reduced to such impotence as to be no longer a danger.

Canada should have conscription in time of peace as well as in time of war, and every man should be required to serve at least a year continuously for the protection of Canada.

As a young man I served in the militia as a private, second lieutenant, lieutenant and captain, with periodical training. This was useful, but it would have been much more useful if the service had been 365 continuous days.

If the men in the forces who are risking their physical safety and their lives were paid \$6 a day, and the men at home in safety enjoying the comforts of their families were paid \$1.30 a day during the war, together with clothing and rations, also including Government officials, members of Legislatures and Parliament, there would be little need of conscription. In fact, the difficulty would be to keep men out of the forces.

An election would absorb time from the war, cost millions and result in a stalemate or men brought into Government to carry on the war with little departmental or war experience.

W. C. Mikel.

Belleville.

For Reserve Army

The problem of reinforcing a hard-hitting combat army in the field has caught up with us. The solution is not to be found by changing horses in mid-stream. Our army setup today consists of not one army but three armies—an active army, a Home Defense Army overseas, a Home Defense Army on full-time duty in Canada with training establishments across Canada, and a Reserve Army on a part-time basis.

All of this costly effort should have but one focal point—one objective: to maintain the active army up to full-time strength. The present Government and Gen. McNaughton refuse to send the Home Defense Army overseas. Not only that, but the training potential of the Reserve Army is ignored. Consequently, as we have no defense problem here at home, these two outlets for army reinforcements can be classified as 100 per cent liabilities, offering no return for their costly upkeep.

The Home Defense Army can be dumped on the Government's doorstep; it's their foundling.

Reserve Army O.K.

The Reserve Army deserves no such treatment. Composed of men voluntarily sacrificing much valuable time from home, business or profession, the Reserve Army has carried on through months of thankless training. It is preserving the time-honored militia units which have been the backbone and sinew of Canada's military glory. These units offered a ready solution to much of the present army-recruiting muddle. With a very slight revision to the present N.R.M. Act, every man of military age in Canada could have received his basic training on a part-time basis in a Reserve Army unit without interrupting his school, industrial or home life. If, as advocated many times in this correspondence space, this plan had been adopted, we would have today a basic trained reserve far exceeding that now available and at a training cost far below the present financial burden.

Contrary to statements made by political leaders, this is not a matter to be left in the hands of the military staffs. It is of fundamental importance to every Canadian. It is the keystone around which our present war effort and our future security are built.

Recruiting System a Failure

If the present recruiting system has failed to supply a fully trained reinforcement pool for our army in time of war, how much greater will be its failure in time of peace? If we are to contribute our share to an international force to maintain the peace, we should adopt a plan now whereby the men for that force are to be raised and trained.

The reported resignation of highly trained officers in the Reserve Army, although offered as a protest to the inactivity of the Home Defense Army, is much more than that. It is primarily an outward expression of the dissatisfaction of all ranks with the lack of objective and purpose in the reserve. The disintegration of this organization would be a much greater calamity to the future of Canada than anything which can happen to the Home Defense Army.

So before internal rot has a chance to take hold within the structure of the Reserve Army through lack of purpose and public indifference, let pressure be brought to bear to build it up to its rightful place as Canada's own unique training system.

Program Outlined

Military training with its mental and physical discipline is now conceded to be beneficial to the development of youth. To be drafted into the Reserve Army for three years for a course of basic training would entail no hardships for every physically fit youth in Canada. Air cadets, navy cadets and army cadets as well as thousands now unattached could be mustered into the Reserve Army in a revamped program covering the requirements of all three services. This war has proved the joint dependence of each service to the other two.

By this plan we would be assured of an adequate military potential to meet future requirements without disrupting our social, economic or industrial life either as individuals or as a nation. And in the process we would develop a standard of physical fitness sadly lacking in those years prior to this war.

Give the Reserve Army a job to do—a job it can do efficiently and economically—basic training on a part-time basis.

K. A. Grant.

Toronto.

Canadian Soldier Rushed to Front: Left Canada in June; Killed Aug. 8

Having read in the press the reports of statements made by Premier George Drew of Ontario, and also by Major Connie Smythe, regarding the sending of Canadian soldiers to the front in France without having been properly trained, I wish to substantiate the statements made by these men as far as my late husband is concerned.

My late husband was Hartley W. Beatty, G-2243, No. 4 CIRU, who enlisted in October, 1943, taking his basic training at Fredericton and his advanced training at Utopia. He left Utopia on or about June 25, 1944, for overseas, landing in England some time in the first week of July, 1944. On Aug. 17, 1944, I received from the Department of National Defense word that my husband had been killed in action on Aug. 8, in France.

It is apparent that he was transferred immediately to active service in France some time between July 1 and Aug. 8, the day he was killed, and in this short time he could not possibly have had ade-

quate military training for service at the front.

The experience of my late husband is proof to substantiate the statements made by Premier Drew and Major Smythe that Canadian reinforcements were sent to France without adequate training and this, I claim, may have been responsible for his loss of life at the front.

Period of Illness Included

To the above I might add that, while my late husband was on furlough in the month of June, 1944, he had to have medical attention, due to stomach ulcers, from which he had suffered for the last nine years. He was rejected once from the army in 1942 when he made application to join, and at that time was placed in Category "C." Why he was found on further examination to be in the category for service at the front I do not expect I will ever be able to find out.

If reserves are required for service at the front in France, as the case must be, why should not the vast army of reserve men in Canada (commonly called Zombies) be sent overseas and given proper training to supplement the men at the front?

I sincerely feel that if my late husband had received adequate and proper military training before being sent to the front, he would not have lost his life, and I wish to bear testimony to the statements made by Col. Drew and Major Smythe.

I trust that you will publish this letter in order that the people may realize that at least some of our boys are not receiving adequate training to enable them to take their places in the front lines.

Mrs. Alma Beatty.
Fredericton, N.B.

Zombies Must Be Sent To Assist Volunteers

There are some aspects of the Zombie controversy which, it seems to me, have not received the attention they merit. Probably, if we dug deep enough, we could discover some sort of justification for their objection to serving overseas; but the reinforcement situation will soon be so critical that they must be compelled to back up our volunteers in Italy and Europe.

Opposition Known

We know where the most stubborn opposition to sending draftees overseas is centred. Leaving religion out of the picture, and keeping the question on a racial basis, is it not apparent that the present unfair arrangement is rapidly upsetting the balance of nationalities in Canada? While our best men are overseas being slaughtered, our Zombies are encouraged to stay home in safety and idleness, living on the fat of the land.

Further encouraged by the "baby bonus," they are breeding another crop of little Zombies who, in the event of another world war 20 years from now, will be full-grown Zombies.

Objects to Cost

I personally object to having any part of my small share of war taxes and Victory bonds wasted in keeping this Zombie army in Canada while brave men are dying over there. But not all Zombies are in the defense army; there are still numbers of them in civilian clothes and so-called "key" positions.

Toronto. T. E. Davies.

'Unconscious Irony'

When forced to lie in bed ill for weeks, the radio certainly affords some interesting reactions ranging from delight to cold fury.

The other evening on a popular money quiz, where the accumulated "Oscar" had piled up to \$700 to \$1,000 odd, a Canadian-born man was asked to name the capitals of nine Canadian Provinces correctly to win this "Pot of Gold" for him and his air partner. With considerable floundering he got two right, but when asked the capital of Quebec Province the right answer being vital to score he first muttered "Montreal" then, sensing an error, and with a flash of pure genius, said, "Ottawa!" He lost the works! Why? What his "air partner" said has not been printed to date.

(Capt.) John Ekiner (ret.)
Ottawa.

never was a reinforcement problem. But figures don't fight. The public has learned this in hundreds of letters from the boys at the fronts. Col. Ralston learned it by visiting the fronts. Figures will not reinforce the men at the front; certainly they will not provide the aid needed now, and we doubt if they can alter materially or confuse the factual case which Col. Ralston can present to the Commons.

Mr. Bertrand Calls It a 'Pretext'

No matter how serious the crisis or how many lives are involved, the Dominion Cabinet politicians insist on playing the same dangerous game that has caused so much division in the country.

Since the Great War Quebec Cabinet Ministers have done their worst in indoctrinating their people to keep them apart from the rest of Canada. In their political manoeuvre to hold Quebec as a solid block they have continued to cry out against the draft for service overseas, for total war.

The newest attempt at the old divisive game is the speech made at Valleyfield, Que., by Fisheries Minister Bertrand. It was before a Liberal Party nominating convention. Mr. Bertrand, who sat in the Cabinet during the entire crisis which saw the resignation of Col. Ralston over lack of trained reinforcements, is reported as having referred to the public's concern over sending the draftees overseas as "a fanatical explosion." He also said that "the group opposing Mr. King was using conscription as a pretext."

Beyond the fact that Mr. Bertrand is refusing to give the facts to his Province, he is one more of Mr. King's Ministers who are causing racial division. He is following the line taken by Justice Minister St. Laurent. It is all of a pattern, and completely ignores the truth that is agitating Canada: the lack of trained reinforcements for the men doing the fighting.

Even Mr. King and Gen. McNaughton admit the lack of trained infantrymen overseas. But Mr. Bertrand, for no other apparent reason than to play to the voters of his Province, whom he has helped mislead, calls the crisis a "pretext" and a "fanatical explosion."

Is it a "pretext" that Col. Ralston resigned? Is it a "fanatical explosion" that Gen. McNaughton has admitted the seriousness of lack of trained reinforcements? Is it nothing but "fanatical" to refuse to let the men down overseas? Are the women's organizations across the country fanatical in asking, pleading and demanding that the draftees be sent overseas as aid to those Canadians who are fighting for our safety?

Are the lads overseas writing to their parents about the lack of trained reinforcements "fanatical"? Are they just doing so as a "pretext"? Or do they want help so that they can have a better chance to defeat the enemy and get through with fewer casualties?

Premier George Drew has been accused of stirring racial discord because he pointed out a few facts about the lack of unity in Canada.

What can Mr. Bertrand's action be called at this time? What adjectives can be applied to a man who, for votes, will ignore the pleading of the men in the line for help and create bitter divisions between races in Canada?

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The subject who is truly loyal to the Chief Magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures.—JUNIUS.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1944.

The Blacking Brush

It still is not clear whether the Prime Minister has abandoned his plan to dispose of the reinforcement crisis at a secret session. What has emerged in solid outline is the course the Government will follow in defending its adherence to the voluntary system. Defense Minister McNaughton added to the evidence yesterday when appealing for a "fair trial" for his enlist-the-draftees program.

The Minister again based his appeal on his conference of last week with the officers commanding the military districts. Gen. McNaughton's report on that conference does not altogether jibe with the advice which he received. But he does not claim to be acting on the advice received. He is in the difficult position of having advised the Government on policy before becoming advised himself, and is, therefore, committed to the task of propping up Government policy as best he can.

Yesterday's statement reveals how this must be done. It is not a new device, but the threadbare one of blackening the reputation of the other fellow. Referring to the conference with the District Officers Commanding, the Minister's statement said: "I was able to confirm the existence of a number of factors which had operated to deter or prevent men in the N.R.M.A. from coming forward to volunteer for overseas service."

It requires no search to find the meaning of that sentence. Col. Ralston's administration of the draftee army will be represented as faulty to show that all was not done which should have been done to get volunteers. Embittered as he is toward his predecessor, it is not surprising that Gen. McNaughton could be induced to follow this formula. His entry into politics has been a boomerang to the Government as to himself. Quickly he found how perishable is popularity when personal actions run counter to the public conscience.

But the weakness is as apparent as the plan itself. The Minister is asking the House of Commons and the people to believe that the responsible officers in the military districts gave Col. Ralston one story of conditions and gave him a different one. This we do not believe. Nor will the Canadian people who for four years have watched the Government apply every conceivable scheme to compel the conscript troops to enlist for overseas.

But the general will make a great effort to prove his point. There has been an intense drive on to have the draftees volunteer. Undoubtedly some have done so, if only on the principle of "Go quietly, or be pushed." Accordingly, there will be a great mobilization of figures to impress the House of Commons that in three weeks Col. Ralston has been proved wrong and his successor right; that the draftees have rallied to the "new treatment."

We have had a lot of figures during the past four years. Statistically the army always has been in splendid shape. Statistically there

Draftees Make as Good Soldiers as Others

By MAJOR H. G. L. STRANGE

In the last war the author had opportunity to observe closely the battle behavior of soldiers of many countries. He decided that the popular notion that volunteers were better fighters than drafted men had no basis in fact. Occasionally a man's nerves might give way, or he might rise to almost superhuman heights of heroism, but this apparently had no relation to the circumstances of his becoming a soldier.

THE question of reinforcements to the Canadian Army Overseas, as we all know, is agitating the minds of the members of our Government and of all of us. It appears to be a highly complicated matter involving such things as politics, unity and the training of the men. Great differences of opinion have been expressed about these phases of the question. There is one other point, however, that is being discussed upon which I believe I can throw some evidence; it concerns the opinion expressed by some that we should be reluctant to send draftees overseas to reinforce our army for the reason that drafted men would not, it is alleged, make as good fighting men as those who have volunteered; and that dissatisfaction might be created in our army, now composed of volunteers, if drafted men are sent to reinforce them.

I have myself had fighting experience in the Boer War and in the last war. Then because of the special nature of the work in which I was engaged, i.e. the discharge of gas and flame, I had the opportunity of working with, and of observing rather closely, the different national armies in France—the Belgians, the British, the Canadians, the Australians, the New Zealanders, the French, the Americans and the Portuguese.

Boers All Draftees

In the South African War the Boers were all drafted men. Men between the ages of 16 and 60 were commandeered by law to serve with the fighting Commandos. The British on the other hand were all volunteers. When we landed in South Africa we were told that one volunteer was worth three conscripted or drafted men. We believed this, but after our first action against the Boers "We were soon cured of all that damned nonsense", as one soldier put it in those days. The drafted Boers and the volunteer British were equally brave and equally courageous, but the Boers knew the country better, so they were better fighters in that area. After awhile we caught up with them in experience, and towards the end of the war there was no difference between our respective abilities as fighters.

In the last Great War the French were all drafted men. The American Army was composed mainly of drafted men, but included a fair percentage of volunteers. The British Army were all volunteers up to a certain date, and then were reinforced by conscripted or drafted men. The Australians were all volunteers. The New Zealanders like the British consisted of volunteers up to a certain date, and after that were reinforced by drafted men. The Canadians, too, consisted mainly of volunteers but towards the end of the war, as with the British, the New Zealanders and the Americans were reinforced by drafted men. Our enemy, the Germans, were all drafted men. In the last war, therefore, we had every possible combination of volunteers and drafted men fighting in the different armies on the Allied side.

My own definite conclusion which I expressed immediately after the war when it was quite fresh in my memory was that there was no difference whatever in the gallantry, courage and devotion to duty of the soldiers in any national army, whether Allied or enemy, in France. Soldiers all did their tasks as well as they could, and when necessary they stood their ground, fought and died. No more than this could be asked of any

man. It was generally thought then that one might make an exception of the Portuguese, for their infantry as a group definitely was poor, but the Portuguese artillery, also drafted men, was considered to be among the best artillery in any army. Any infantry unit was content if it were supported by Portuguese artillery, but even among the two divisions of Portuguese infantry, and which in general made a poor record, there was one battalion at least that stood out and was considered to be the equal of any battalion in any army.

This refers to the fighting ability of men in groups. There were naturally individual instances that differed greatly. Under the extreme stress of battle occasionally a man's nerves gave way, and occasionally a man rose to almost superhuman heights of heroism and unselfish devotion to duty. These instances, however, occurred equally with drafted men and volunteers. They were caused by the make-up of the individual man and had nothing whatever to do with whether he was a volunteer or a drafted man.

Courage Common Attribute

This experience then would seem to deny the statement we hear now that volunteers are better fighters than drafted men. Apparently they are not, for almost all soldiers, I have found, behave well in battle. Courage, I conclude, not only from my own experience in two wars, but also from my reading of military history, is a most ordinary human attribute. Soldiers in battle seem to be readily influenced by the example of those around them. A soldier soon realizes that his own life to a great extent depends upon the support his comrades give him, and, of course, it soon dawns on him that the lives of his comrades, too, depend on his own actions, and so soldiers rise to the occasion, and usually do their duty in battle faithfully, courageously and well.

In my own unit I had both volunteers and drafted men. There was nothing whatever in their respective conduct or behavior to indicate who was drafted or who was a volunteer. Their records showing whether they were volunteers or drafted men appeared only on their individual files in the Orderly Room. These records were seldom if ever known outside the Orderly Room, and a fellow-soldier's status was never discussed or even thought of by either officer, N.C.O. or private. A soldier is much more concerned about whether his comrades do their share of the necessary work to be done than he is about inquiring into the pre-war history of his mates, or of how they became a part of the Army.

Resentment Doesn't Figure

Whatever, therefore, may be the reasons which will decide whether our Canadian draftees should be sent overseas or not, one thing is certain: the argument used by some that draftees would not make good fighting men, or that our volunteers already over there would resent draftees appearing on the battle front, can be written off as being of no consequence. That opinion at least, I believe, can be deleted from the discussion.

One other point may be of interest. Most people who have not had experience in war and battle conclude that soldiers are forever fighting, forever going into action, and that their feelings are wrought up at all times to a high pitch of fighting excitement. This most definitely is not true. The bulk of the soldier's time is taken up in preparing for battle and this preparation period occupies by far the greater part of his time. The soldier is actually but a short time in battle itself. To obtain sufficient good food, and to get sufficient sleep, under conditions that at least supply him with a minimum of comfort, is always of great concern to fighting men. Then the soldier looks forward to the opportunity of going

back to rest away from both battle and the preparation for battle.

One serious source of discontent and grumbling with soldiers is always when they have to spend what they consider too long a period in the battle lines under disagreeable and most uncomfortable conditions because of a lack of reinforcements. This question of rest, I suggest, is one other important point to be remembered. Soldiers, too, would much rather be reinforced by men from their own country than by men from the armies of other nations. I am sure that our Canadian Army would much rather be composed of all Canadians than be composed, as it is today, of Canadians, Poles, British and Americans; which brings up one other point:—

Can five Divisions, which constitute the total Canadian Army Overseas, even though they were all gathered together (that is three Divisions in France and the two in Italy) really and truly be termed an Army? This then brings to mind a matter not often discussed these days, and which goes further than the need for reinforcements to our present-size army. Is the present Canadian army large enough to enable Canada to do her full part in this war? Should our army not consist of more divisions than the five which are now there? The very minimum which I have ever heard of a fully-equipped army to consist of is three Army Corps, with three Divisions to each.

Tired of Dilly-Dallying With War's Demands

The R.C. clique at Ottawa, holding many of the important posts in the Government, would now, by advancing their man, Gen. McNaughton, shut off help to Britain.

Is it not time for the Canadian people to act, to give Mr. King an ultimatum? There follows a suggestion of what I believe our Canadian people wish:

The time has gone by for any further dilly-dallying. The people of Canada must do their duty. In this terrible war, and now at the very crisis when our allies are in direct need of reinforcements, we, the people of Canada, demand:

1. The immediate removal of Gen. McNaughton from the Department of Defense.
2. The restoration of Messrs Ralston and Stuart, together with sending at once to the front the 80,000 soldiers held back by pro-Hitler influences.
3. The retirement of Mr. King unless these requirements are put into execution forthwith.

Mrs. R. S. Jenkins.

Cannington.

A Soldier Writes Home

Sent Two as Reinforcements After 31 Casualties Listed

Below is an excerpt from a letter written by a Canadian Army officer in Holland. It was sent to his father, who is a resident of Toronto. At the father's request and for the protection of both, neither name is being published. The letter is dated Nov. 4, 1944.

"Whoever says that the reinforcement situation is good doesn't know what it is like up here in the line where the fighting is going on,

"Our platoons were reduced to 13 and 16 men during the last battle. When you understand that each platoon should have 36 men, you can realize what that means to the fighting efficiency of a unit.

"We had 31 casualties and they sent us two reinforcements. Even before we started the platoons had only about 26 men instead of 36. There just are not enough men to go around, I guess. If this isn't serious I do not know what King and his gang think is serious."

What Keeps "Zombies" From Going Active?

By ERIC KOCH

What are the motives prompting "Zombies" to refuse active service in the face of a generally disapproving public opinion? They are not less intelligent, less courageous physically, nor less amenable to discipline than the soldiers who have gone active.

Why then do they stay in the Home Defence Army?

The writer outlines some of the reasons.

WHO are the "Zombies"? Why won't they go active?

While our newspapers are full of arguments for and against conscription, there is very little discussion of these questions. If the public were better informed about the background and attitudes of "Zombies", they would not assume, as they largely have done, that they are all French-Canadian. It is therefore time to consider these questions dispassionately.

Unfortunately, no Gallup Poll has been conducted in our Home Defence Army. The only official figures available are those given out by Mr. King and Gen. McNaughton. According to these, 25,000 out of 60,000 draftees are French-speaking, a figure only little larger than the proportion of French-Canadians to the total population.

Who then are the remaining two-thirds? Do they come from the poorer or less educated sections of the Canadian public? Are they less intelligent, or is there anything wrong with them mentally? Are any racial groups particularly widely represented among them?

As for their intelligence and educational level, Army examiners are not prepared to say that there is any difference between them and active men: their average I.Q. is exactly the same. Nor do Army psychiatrists attribute their attitude to a lack of mental balance, although some have found more neurotics among draft-

ees than among active men.

As far as the racial composition of the N.R.M.A. personnel is concerned, many people who realize that they are not all French-Canadian believe that those who do not come from Quebec are invariably "New Canadians", i.e. immigrants, or sons of immigrants, from Central and Eastern Europe. Opinions differ as to the predominance of this element. If it is true that there are too many unassimilated Europeans among the "Zombies," it is not difficult to explain.

In the countries they come from there is a totally different attitude towards the Army from that prevailing in this country. It is considered a kind of purgatory: undesirable but inevitable. There is little glory attached to the military life. These men have great respect for authority and discipline, as is shown by those who have gone active: officers agree that they are particularly good soldiers. On the other hand, they are not used to being asked whether they want to fight or not: they are accustomed to conscription.

In some cases even members of the second generation do not speak proper English, and they have no consciousness of Canada as a nation. If the authorities had brought to their notice their rights and duties as Canadians at the time of their immigration, they would be much keener now to go active. But no attempts were made to assist their assimilation. This is a strong argument for decent citizenship training for immigrants. The Americans are very good at that.

A Fair Cross-Section

It is claimed that since the entry of Russia into the war the "right wing" of the Ukrainian, Hungarian, Polish, and Yugoslav press is not ardently pressing its readers to go active, while the left wing is urging full support of the war effort. There are no Central and Eastern Europeans who are in sympathy with the Soviet Union among the draftees.

A consensus of opinion among officers indicates that the attitude of "Zombies" can definitely not be attributed to their racial background. Far the most interesting thing about the "Zombies" is that they represent a fair cross-section of the whole Canadian public. They are, on the whole, neither less intelligent, nor less educated, nor less "Canadian".

Nor are they lacking in physical courage. Their training officers do not think so. They are just as good soldiers as anybody else. Their record in tough assault courses, which really test a man's "guts", has been unimpeachable. Moreover, their conduct in the Niagara district, where they have been assigned the job of guarding canals, has been particularly good. This is a very monotonous job, and the men are lucky if they get leave once every ten weeks. Even so, there are less A.W.O.L.'s than in many an active unit. This may be, of course, because any breach of discipline is more severely dealt with in the Home Defence Army than elsewhere. But this is only

a partial explanation for their very good record.

In the Kiska campaign the large majority of "Zombies" taking part made absolutely no attempt to shirk their duties. On the contrary, most of them asked for more training.

On the whole, "Zombies" are just as courageous as other Canadians. Why then won't they go active? What are their arguments for retaining a status of which the public at large disapproves? The answer is that they have a different conception of their social duties.

No Sense of Duty

Perhaps the most typical case is the "Zombie" who denies the existence of any kind of social duty altogether. "Whatever I am I owe to myself," he says, "and not to the government." This case is very common, and is usually caused by memories of the depression. "They certainly didn't care ten years ago whether I had anything to eat or not, or whether I slept on newspapers in the cellars of police stations. I needed help then and nobody cared. Now the government needs help and I don't care."

Depression memories are often extremely strong, and the bitterness stored up during those years lingers on. This is particularly the case where a man got the first job of his life in 1938 or '39, married and set-

tled down at the outbreak of war. To many men ideas such as "duty to one's country" have absolutely no meaning. "What's the difference?" they ask. "We'll be bossed around by somebody else if the Germans win, that's all."

This attitude is often found among farmers, especially in the West. It is understandable that a man who has never had strong social contacts has no conception of political realities. But fortunately there are not many as cynical about the war as that. A more frequent case is the "Zombie" who objects to going active on moral grounds.

"Why should one group in the coun-

try have a perfectly legitimate right to stay at home, while the others go out to fight?" they ask. "If anybody is going to reap the advantages of this policy, it might just as well be me." They may even be aware of the moral shortcomings of this attitude; however, they feel that the government's policy is so unfair that their own stand is justified. There is no doubt that such men would not have the slightest objection to going active if compelled to do so.

"Pays to Be Zombie"

Then there are the men who do not take a moral stand at all. They just believe that "it pays to be a Zombie". Their reasoning is as follows: "For one thing, it's a safe way to stay alive. For another thing, you stay near your family. Furthermore, you have nothing to worry about. What do you get for going active, anyway? Plenty of men have come back from overseas and they now sit around in camps washing dishes." In some cases there is a distinct advantage in not going active, e.g., some courses (especially in Radar, i.e. the radio location of planes) are only open to "Zombies", and not to active men.

It is not surprising, therefore, that many men, especially married men, prefer not to go active. It is particularly interesting to note that many "Zombies" do not go active because they have given solemn promises to their wives and mothers not to do so.

"There are plenty of single men around," they say; "let them do the fighting."

The following case is particularly revealing. A young accountant has been in the Army for two and a half years. He is now a corporal. By reason of his great skill as an accountant he is greatly desired by an active unit, and his officers are constantly trying to persuade him to go active, in which case he would be sure to get a commission. He has a very low category, and it is completely out of the question that he should be sent overseas. He wants to go active. However, he has an old mother who would be sure to get a stroke if he changed his status. He is understandably reluctant to cause his mother's death. The case is complicated by two highly nervous sisters who scream at him every time he mentions his intention to go active. They tell him that if anything happened to mother, he would be responsible: they just refuse to listen to his arguments.

Every officer who has had anything to do with "Zombies" knows how many of them are being influenced by their women folk. It is clear that in many cases women use their influence over men to allow personal loyalties to prevail over social duties.

Can't Use Skills

But there are many other reasons why so many men prefer to remain "Zombies". Many of them feel that the active army cannot make proper use of their skills. There is, for example, the case of the skilled welder who was offered the job of truck-driver in the active army. He declined, thinking it better to be a "Zombie" than a truck-driver. Then there are a number of tradesmen who do not see "how they can be useful in the Army". So they remain "Zombies".

The whole problem boils down to this: "Zombies" do not go active because they don't have to. They cannot see any motivation for this war in general, nor for their contributions to it in particular. To persuade them, the Government must provide that motivation. It is at bottom an educational problem.

It is quite clear that many active men have no more consciousness of the meaning of this war than "Zombies". Many of them have been in the Army for four years, and have never realized the dangers of Fascism until they arrived in Italy and saw its effects with their own eyes.

The government's recruiting appeals are only too frequently pooh-poohed as "propaganda". Politicians are generally suspected of having ulterior motives. That is one reason why they have so far failed to inspire sufficient enthusiasm for the war in so substantial a number of potential fighting men.

Reports Battalions At Half-Strength

Ottawa, Nov. 24 (Staff)—The shortage of Canadian Infantrymen in Italy was so serious that artillery, ordnance, and anti-aircraft gunners arriving from Britain were transferred to the Infantry the minute they debarked from the transports at Naples, a senior officer just back from that front reported tonight. He claimed that some battalions were at half their normal strength and that some companies were reduced to the size of platoons.

The officer's name is withheld for his own protection as he is still in the service.

Pick 10,000 Draftees; Coldwell Sees Coercion

By WILLIAM MARCHINGTON

OTTAWA, Nov. 24 (Staff).—Defense Minister McNaughton today in the House of Commons clarified an obscurity in his observations of yesterday with respect to the number of draftees to be sent overseas as reinforcements. Later he announced that "the

QUEBEC LIBERAL CRIES 'TREASON' ON DRAFTEES

By KENNETH C. CRAGG

Ottawa, Nov. 24 (Staff).—A short and bitter attack today against the Government by Wilfred La Croix, Quebec-Montreal, directly after he left his front-row Liberal seat to take a new place with Quebec Independents in Opposition, immediately before adjournment of the House of Commons, was ordered by Prime Minister King to be expunged from the records of Parliament.

According to Mr. King's translation, the former Liberal charged that the Government policy on conscription was "treason of the Province of Quebec," and accused the French-speaking Ministers, through a lack of courage, of preferring to "keep their hands in the till."

The Prime Minister said the statements contravened the rules of debate. He had the right, and he had considered taking this action, of calling the member back and demanding an apology. To avoid further disturbance, he decided to have the record cleaned. In doing so he advised that neither would his references to the charges appear on Hansard.

Speaker Couldn't Hear

Speaker Glen advised that Mr. La Croix had spoken in French, and that there was such an outcry that he was unable to hear the remarks, and so had no opportunity to advise the member that he had used very offensive language. "Otherwise, I would have asked him to withdraw," he said.

"I think no publicity should be given to these remarks," said the Speaker in a reference directed to the Press Gallery.

Opposition Leader Graydon advised him that the remarks had already appeared in some publications, and the Speaker said he could do nothing about that, but maintained that they should not be published.

Mr. La Croix was not in the House at the time, but colleagues translated the word "trahison" that he used as "betrayal." According to them, Mr. La Croix used the word deliberately in oblique reference to the November speech of Justice Minister St. Laurent, before the La Pointe-Drouin Club in Quebec City, when he was quoted in translation as saying that if the Federal Government had decided to send draftees as reinforcements "the majority of people in Quebec would have deemed themselves 'deceived' by their English-speaking compatriots."

Break Long Expected

The break of Mr. La Croix with the Government, pending for more than two years, was not unexpected, but came with suddenness and effect of a rocket burst. He rose from his seat immediately after the House convened, opened his remarks, and at once the Chamber echoed with objections and demands for order.

Quebec members broke out with a storm of interruptions that drowned the Speaker's powerful voice, and he kept on shouting his statement until the last word was spoken, then stepped out into the aisle and took a seat with Independents Frederic Dorian, Charlevoix-Saguenay, and J. S. Roy. Gaspe.

Mr. La Croix's march to the opposition brought loud and sustained

units to comprise the first 10,000 of the NRMA for despatch were selected this morning. Those units will shortly be in process of moving to concentration areas in Eastern Canada. The men who wish to volunteer will be given every opportunity to do so. The others, the whole units, including those men, will be despatched on the dates which at the present time are being arranged.

C.C.F. Leader M. J. Coldwell accused the Government of "coercing men to volunteer."

No Intention to Scrape

In his clarifying statement, Mr. McNaughton said:

"I expressed a strong preference for our traditional voluntary system, and also my hope that it might not be necessary to use to the full extent the powers given to the Minister of National Defense in the Order-in-Council tabled yesterday. In some quarters my remarks have been interpreted as an intention on my part to scrape up men and use our general service men and to use them first even if they are not as well trained as N.R.M.A. men. That is not so."

"What I desired to convey was that I hoped trained N.R.M.A. men would volunteer for general service soon enough and in large enough numbers so that it would not be necessary to send them overseas by compulsion."

"What I wish to make clear is that if adequately trained men do not volunteer in sufficient numbers the required numbers will be made up from the best-trained men we have. These will be detailed for service overseas under the Order-in-Council."

Use Power As Needed

"While the Order-in-Council extends the locality of service of all N.R.M.A. personnel, the maximum number the Minister of National Defense is authorized by the present order to despatch overseas is 16,000. This power will be used to the extent that adequately trained men, whether now in the N.R.M.A. or not, do not come forward as volunteers sufficiently rapidly to meet the numbers required."

"The maximum was fixed at 16,000 in order to provide adequate reserves. In addition to giving the reserves required by the time they are required these numbers will also enable increased periods of rest for individuals and will provide the increased number needed to compensate for the men given leave to Canada as these proposals develop."

"I can now give the House the composition generally of the first 10,000 of the additional reinforcements being despatched in December and January to which I referred yesterday: 7,500 are fully trained infantry; 2,500 are well advanced in infantry training, and this training will be completed on arrival in the United Kingdom."

McNaughton Plan Bore To Overseas Corporal; Gives Officer Laugh

By RALPH ALLEN

Globe and Mail War Correspondent

With the Northern Group of Armies, Nov. 24.—The relatively few soldiers of the 1st Canadian Army who had ready access to radios or their troop newspaper today received the reinforcement news from Ottawa with the restrained approval of men who had been given more than they expected but less than they felt their due.

Beyond the broadest generalities of this type, it was impossible to say what the overseas army thought of the King Government's conditional surrender on the issue of compulsory overseas service for home defense troops.

By this evening probably no more than half of the army's Canadian personnel had heard of the Cabinet's decision to send 16,000 conscripts to their support in the European theatre if needed. And many of that number were confused by sketchy early reports that hadn't made it clear whether the voluntary recruiting system had been abandoned, modified or only given an emergency vacation.

(Defense Minister McNaughton told the House of Commons that men will be conscripted for overseas service only if adequately trained volunteers are not available.)

The first news of the McNaughton plan reached the Western front on last night's midnight news broadcast of the BBC. This correspondent listened to the broadcast in company with a Canadian officer and a corporal and a lance-corporal who had gone to bed an hour earlier, but remained awake because an earlier bulletin had advised that an "important announcement" might be expected momentarily.

Corporal Nonchalant

When the news from Ottawa had been read the lance-corporal uttered a fervent "gawd" and lighted a cigarette. The corporal turned over and went to sleep, saying nothing. The officer broke into peals of laughter.

"This is the damndest thing I ever heard of in all my life," he said. In his voice were admiration, wonder and a trace of disgust.

Troops who read slightly more extended reports in the Maple Leaf this morning also digested them with feelings that were by no means unmixed.

Many of them reminded themselves that the Government had not yet accepted the principle of equality of sacrifice for all militaryelligibles; but even though this cherished goal of virtually all active service veterans was not yet in sight it was almost unanimously agreed that the sudden materialization of 16,000 unexpected reinforcements was a windfall no one could afford to sneeze at.

Whatever they thought of its political genesis, aware as they were that the promise had been extracted only under the heaviest pressure, all arms were still sincerely relieved and pleased by the prospect of support from the quarter best able to supply it. But there was no immediate sign of a decrease in hostility toward the Mackenzie King Government.

Told of Cabinet Crisis

The tabloid-sized Maple Leaf carried a column and a half of news on yesterday's proceedings in the House of Commons. But the troops' newspaper, which went to press only four hours after Mr. McNaughton made his announcement, devoted most of this space to the Prime Minister's statements, the King-Ralston correspondence and the reported threat of several Ministers to resign on Wednesday night.

The only enlightenment on the new policy, and the possibility of its extension, was contained in these three lead paragraphs:

"Defense Minister McNaughton announced in the House of Commons yesterday that 16,000 members of Canada's home defense army would be sent overseas to the European theatre of operations."

"A BBC broadcast heard here said: 'The Canadian Government has decided to send 16,000 of the conscripted home defense troops on overseas service, Defense Minister McNaughton, who made the announcement, said that when he entered the Cabinet as Defense Minister three weeks ago he thought he would be able to get reinforcements on a voluntary basis. He said there was no overall shortage of men. The difficulty came in transferring men from one service to another.'

"He said that infantry casualties were higher than expected, both in Italy and Europe, and that at the present rate there might be a shortage by January or February."

Still Much at Sea

Thus troops in this theatre still have no way of knowing that the 16,000 draftees to be sent overseas represent the trained infantrymen of the home defense army. They don't know whether it is planned to send other draftees abroad, if and as they are needed.

They have heard no reference to the future of voluntary recruiting. The deficiency of these fundamental explanatory details will probably be corrected in the paper's next issue.

Gen. Crerar's Canadian troops had made up their minds how to receive the draftees long before there seemed much likelihood that the draftees would ever get here.

It would be anticipating the millennium to expect that there will be an instant and affectionate approachment between the draftees and the active service veterans when the conscripts begin arriving, but there is little justification for the fear that home defense soldiers will be greeted with insults.

"Privileged Class"

There has been resentment against the draftees, but it has been less personal resentment than resentment against privilege. As a

privileged class, they have been subjected to far less contumely in overseas messes than the Government which was accused of underwriting their privileges.

"If the Zombies come over well trained and ready to fight, we'll be glad to see them," an infantryman said today. "I guess a lot of them just wanted to stay near their wives and kids. You can't stay mad at a guy for that forever, even if you think he should have done something else."

KING PONDERES AIR MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

By KENNETH C. CRAGG

Ottawa, Nov. 24 (Staff). — Air Minister Power's resignation from the Cabinet because he is "opposed to conscription for overseas service" has not been accepted, Prime Minister Mackenzie King told the House of Commons this afternoon.

"I may say that the Minister has tendered to me his resignation, but thus far I have not advised the Governor-General that I think the resignation should be accepted. Until I do that I wish to consider carefully the matter further," Mr. King stated.

Opposition Leader Graydon asked if there had been any correspondence between Major Power and himself, and if he would table it, and was told there had been the one letter only, presumably from the Air Minister, and intimated that when the matter came to a finality any correspondence which existed would be tabled.

There were persistent reports today that every effort is being made to persuade Major Power to withdraw his resignation, and these were intensified when the Quebec Liberal caucus met and adjourned with every indication that the rest of the Quebec Ministers, Justice Minister St. Laurent, Fisheries Minister Bertrand, Works Minister Fournier, War Services Minister LaFleche, and Health and Welfare Minister Claxton, would remain in the Cabinet.

Compatriots of the French-speaking members, who are seated already seated in Opposition, offer predictions that anywhere from 10 to 15 to practically the entire Quebec membership will bolt from the Government on the confidence motion.

Newspaper Comment on Conscription Move

Following are excerpts from editorials in Canadian newspapers on the Mackenzie King Government's Order-in-Council authorizing sending of draftees overseas, if needed:

Vancouver News-Herald—As the first breach in the anti-conscriptionist citadel, this is to be welcomed. But it is not good enough. We looked for something better. In changing its policy the Government should have gone the whole way. This is no time for half measures. The decision . . . means that the Canadian forces overseas will not go short of reinforcements—provided requirements are not for more than 6,000 men for each of the next two months and 6,000 in February. There should, of course, be no such ceiling on the support of our men overseas.

The Edmonton Bulletin: . . . No matter what speakers in the House may say to the contrary, the principle of conscription has been tacitly endorsed. Canada has at least begun, if even in a small way, to apply the rule of equal responsibility and equal privileges for every one.

Winnipeg Tribune—Mr. King is still playing for time. . . This is Mr. King's device for postponing until next May the application of the principle of conscription for overseas service. . . Gen. McNaughton's explanation of how the Order-in-Council is to be applied makes it perfectly evident that no NRMA man will be sent overseas if the Minister can possibly avoid it. . . Mr. King and his partisans will be able to say to the people of Quebec that not one man has been sent overseas except as a volunteer. They will be able to show that they went to unbelievable lengths of ingenuity in sheltering those who disdain sharing responsibility and who have nothing but contempt for the principle of equality of sacrifice.

Hamilton Spectator—The Order-in-Council tabled by the Prime Minister yesterday providing for limited use of the zombies is a compromise rather than a clear-cut solution of the difficulty, and the notice of motion planned by Gordon Graydon, Conservative House Leader, calling for the formation of a new Government under the leadership of a man who had the confidence of Parliament and who favored total conscription indicates that the Parliamentary crisis has by no means passed.

London Free Press—The Government must face a vote of confidence. It has already lost the support of at least one Quebec Minister with the reported resignation of Hon. C. G. Power, Minister of Defense for Air. The possibility of a coalition Government suggested in these columns some days ago is by no means past. The next few days may see changes as startling as those of the last few hours.

But one thing is clear. The voluntary system has failed. This was demonstrated unmistakably by the speech of Gen. McNaughton, now Defense Minister.

Quebec's L'Action Catholique—We had hoped that the King Government would have adhered to a logical attitude until the end. Hardly 10 hours before producing the Ministerial conscription before the House, Gen. McNaughton repeated that the voluntary system had been efficacious in the past and was still so at the end. . . . People will say that the Hon. King and colleagues wished to

avoid a crisis. But why do the party Ministers favoring the voluntary system return to conscription? Where is the logic in this about-face? Will those who could not resist the conscriptionists' pressure enforce their Order-in-Council with the necessary skill under the circumstances, and by so doing prevent some dangerous reactions? We very heartily hope so.

Ottawa Le Droit—About two weeks ago, Mr. King himself put out of his Cabinet his Minister of National Defense because he did not judge that direct conscription for overseas was necessary at the present time and that it would destroy national unity in the country for years. . . .

Mr. King completely reversed the attitude he had maintained. . . . He capitulated. He accepted to impose conscription for overseas. He refused to do so two weeks ago lest national unity be compromised. It now is in the name of national unity that he asked that it be put in force. . . . In having recourse to conscription, Mr. King certainly ruined the rest of the confidence that French Canada had maintained in him.

Windsor Star—The partial conscription which has now been enacted is plainly a compromise deal with Quebec. Apparently it has worked, for the time being, because the French-speaking Ministers are sticking with the Government. Hon. C. G. Power has resigned and he is a Minister the country cannot well afford to lose, but Mr. King probably feels it is a good bargain at this slight cost. . . . It will be interesting to learn what the process of selection will be for the 16,000 to be sent overseas, from the geographical standpoint. The details will probably be closely guarded, lest support be given to the suspicion that Quebec will come off very lightly in the calling of the drafts.

The Edmonton Journal: An aroused nation has compelled Mackenzie King to concede, most unwillingly and with many a backward glance at Quebec, an Order-in-Council authorizing the Government to use 16,000 draftees as overseas reinforcements to the extent only and in such numbers as the required reinforcements cannot be raised by voluntary methods. But this concession is not bread; it is only the proverbial stone, and leaves plenty of scope for political skulduggery. . . . It leaves to a Government which has lost all trace of right to public confidence the power to pick and choose as to which draftees shall be sent to the front and which shall be spared that duty.

Montreal La Patrie—History will register as one of the most deadly and blameworthy political moves in our Canadian records the conspiracy by means of which conscriptionists have succeeded in bringing the Federal Government to take the decision made public yesterday. Deadly conspiracy, because the conscriptionists did not hesitate to undermine the foundation on which all political parties, even themselves, agreed to build national unity at the start of the war. Blameworthy conspiracy, because it drives our country, after five years of a magnificent war effort, to defeat in the task toward which the efforts of all Canadians should have been pledged—the task of assuring peace in our own country. . . .

In this grave crisis which meets our country, it is hoped that Quebec will remain an example of fortitude and balance to the rest of the nation.

Montreal La Presse—Having to make a choice between two evils, the Prime Minister has taken the one he considers the lesser. He would rather order a certain compulsory measure than see a split in the country and disorders of all kinds. . . . But the Government is not rejecting the principle of voluntary enlistment; on the contrary, the intention is to use it to the extreme limit. The new powers will be enforced only in the event of a failure. . . .

In any event, let us hope that the crisis now is avoided, and that the

spirits put on fire by a campaign surely worthy of a better cause, will find again the necessary calm and moderation to get an exact idea of our national problems. Canadian unity remains the foundation of the war effort of Canada. Nobody has the right to forget that. . . .

Montreal Herald—Difficult of application as it promises to prove, this policy may keep our military fronts intact—although it will obviously prove inadequate unexpectedly if our armies suffer unexpectedly heavy losses. But it has failed to keep the political front intact. . . .

As for conscription—one foot inside the door. This is a withdrawal gracefully, it usually proves easier to step right in and face the music.

Montreal Star—Gen. McNaughton's statement to Parliament yesterday, taken together with the Order-in-Council permitting the sending overseas of draftees, is a guarantee to the country that reinforcements will be available for the Canadian Army when they are needed. . . .

The debate on this issue is not yet ended. Nevertheless, the matter upon which the House was called together to decide has in fact been decided. It is to be fervently hoped that a prolongation of the debate may not postpone the departure from Canada of the reinforcements so urgently sought.

Sherbrooke La Tribune—Mr. Power's resignation is an unfortunate event. . . . We believe this is the time for good advisers, the hour when all those who exercise some influence should use it to calm the excitement. Otherwise, there exists the threat that the tragic days of 1917 will recur on the Canadian scene.

Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph—If the recruiting campaign was a failure yesterday, it must have been almost equally a failure the day before when Mr. King was still determined to pin his trust on the voluntary system. . . . On the basis of this professed failure of policy, it is not merely individual Ministers who should resign, but Mr. King himself, and others. A still more imperative reason for such an action is the obvious though unadmitted truth that Mr. King was forced to surrender by widespread revolt in the Liberal caucus as well as in his Cabinet. It is not merely Parliament that has lost confidence in his leadership but his own colleagues, his own followers.

Quebec Le Soleil—A section of the people think the Prime Minister's manoeuvre has no other objective than to pave the way to an inevitable compromise which should never be forgiven Mr. King; but on the other hand his supporters are ready to follow his instructions for fear a switch in the Government would be disastrous for the internal peace of Canada. Between those two trends, if one can judge by the attitude of Quebec representatives in the Cabinet, some moderates are still convinced Mr. King will never order conscription for overseas service.

Under those circumstances, the wisest advice that could be given to those concerned is to wait the events, keeping themselves out of any noisy or violent demonstrations that could be harmful to the cause and the good reputation of a people or a nation.

The Vancouver Sun: Canada now has conscription for overseas service. . . . This policy is entirely consistent with Mr. King's long-standing pledge. He promised "conscription if necessary" and he has imposed it to the extent it is necessary. It follows that he must continue to conscript and conscript according to necessity. . . . Canada has gone to the limit of safety to avoid a course repugnant to its French-speaking citizens. . . .

The Vancouver Province: It is conscription of a sort—a blend of compulsory service and voluntary enlistment in which, in practice, voluntary enlistment is to be the locomotive and compulsory service the caboose. . . . From this incon-

gruous blend our gallant soldiers overseas will draw something. . . . The decision was for the Government both a retreat and a surrender and. . . brings at least a partial victory for public opinion. . . . The man who comes out of this thing with credit unreserved, and perhaps the only man, is Col. Ralston.

Regina Leader-Post: There are those who regard the decision as a major shift in Government policy. They are wrong. It is, in fact, a precise fulfillment of the pledge given by the Prime Minister in 1942. . . . The decision reached vindicates Col. Ralston on the point on which he resigned, that the voluntary system would not meet the situation. His judgment on that score was correct but the fact that it has been proven correct does not weaken the contention of Gen. McNaughton and the Prime Minister that under the circumstances then prevailing the voluntary system before the compulsory step was taken, should have been given a final chance.

The Humiliation Handicap



Says Most Officers Opposed McNaughton

Winnipeg, Nov. 24 (CP). — Brig. A. Macfarlane, who resigned as officer commanding M.D. 10 in protest against the voluntary recruiting plans of Defense Minister McNaughton, said in an interview today that "99 per cent" of the army officers across Canada consider conscription the only way to handle an army.

"If a poll of army officers were taken across Canada you would find that 99 per cent of them would consider over-all conscription the only way to handle an army," he said.

Brig. Macfarlane said last night his resignation resulted from a conference of district officers commanding with Gen. McNaughton at Ottawa Nov. 14 and said he had declared then that he did not believe the new campaign to secure volunteers from the home defense army would succeed.

Asked whether any other of the district officers commanding had agreed with him, he replied:

"It was practically unanimous." He said he thought civilians feel much the same way. "The average civilian is somewhat confused, but I believe the general feeling across Canada is that they want everybody treated fairly, and overall conscription is the only way to ensure fair treatment, even at this late date."

He said he had resigned because he could not conscientiously do his job as a soldier under the existing system of raising men as reinforcements for the overseas army.

The resignation was accepted yesterday afternoon, and he had not been given an opportunity to withdraw it following announcement of implementation of partial conscription.

6th Division Ready
Vancouver, Nov. 24 (CP). — Men

from the 6th Division stationed in this Province will probably be the first to go overseas under the Government's new partial conscription policy, military spokesmen in Pacific Command said last night.

"We have the largest body of home defense troops here who have been trained purely for combat duty," one officer said. "They are in a high state of training and discipline and would be almost immediately ready to go."

"Several thousand of these men would probably be ready after only a short refresher course of about four weeks in England on weapons with which they have not had extensive training here," he said.

Removal of these men would not endanger the Pacific coast since there would remain certain "unbrigaded" troops not included in Pacific Command, available for coast defenses.

Inquiry Proceeds

Meanwhile Lt.-Gen. E. W. Sansom, former commander of a Canadian army corps overseas, arrived here today by plane to open an investigation into statements of high-ranking officers of the Pacific Command regarding recruiting home defense troops for overseas service.

Shortly with his arrival he conferred with Major-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, general officer commanding the Pacific Command.

Gen. Sansom has been ordered by Defense Minister McNaughton to make a report on a press conference at which high-ranking officers of Pacific Command expressed the opinion voluntary recruiting could not meet overseas reinforcements requirements.

Commanding officers involved were arriving here today from various parts of the Province.

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The subject who is truly loyal to the Chief Magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures.—JUNIUS.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1944.

Awaiting Col. Ralston

Throughout the two days which Parliament has considered Prime Minister King's plan for compulsory volunteering, one voice has been virtually silent. To Parliament as to the nation it is the voice best qualified to speak. In the confusion arising out of the Defense Minister's efforts to clarify the plan, Col. Ralston's silence is understandable. But it is from him that the Commons and the people are waiting to hear. It is because of his action that Parliament is in session; because of it that the Prime Minister was driven to act as he did.

The correspondence tabled in the House of Commons Wednesday clearly reveals that Col. Ralston took the stand he did at the command of conscience and in loyalty to the men overseas and the nation. In doing so he carried the issue above partisan interests or political formulas. The response of the people from all quarters of the nation demonstrated their grateful appreciation of the lead he had given.

But what have been the results so far? If what the Defense Minister told the House yesterday while attempting to clear away the confusion in which he had plunged it, and the public is correct, then undoubtedly something has been accomplished. Reinforcements are to go overseas in specified numbers at specific dates, even if their going requires compulsion. This is at least something for the men in the battle lines and their families to cling to.

But no one can pretend that this grudging step has eliminated the apprehension under which the Canadian people have suffered for months. That apprehension is as great as, if not greater than, it was when Parliament met, and justifiably so. The formula came so wrapped up in "ifs" and "buts," has been so concealed by Ministerial qualifications and contradictions that no one can regard it as other than the stepchild of political expediency, subject to all the ravages of partisan necessity.

And this is not all. Disunity bred of the Government's compromises has been exaggerated. Passions have been aggravated with each passing day. Distrust, suspicion and disillusionment are nourishing bitterness, and deep-rooted hatreds, which, if allowed to grow, must destroy Canada's faith in honest leadership for years to come. These things must not be allowed to grow, and surely given the facts Parliament has the capacity to restore public confidence.

There is today no confidence in what the Government has done, not even in Quebec, to which it has pandered at the risk of destroying unity in the other eight Provinces. How could there be? There is no confidence in Col. Ralston's successor. How could there be after his performance in the Commons and throughout the weeks he has held office. Every wholly factual statement the Hon. Mr. McNaughton has uttered has substantiated the situation Col. Ralston described and on which he acted. Yet the Minister maintains reliance in a policy which has failed, seeking to blame the opposition of the public for its failure.

But vindication is not what Col. Ralston wanted. That is not his objective now. Consequently he cannot retire from the issue, however great may be his wish to do so. His duty is to fight the thing through to the end. If the questions to which he has confined himself these past two days are essential to that purpose the people will have patience. But they ought not to be kept waiting longer than necessary.

Col. Ralston remains for them the chief protagonist of the right and decent course. He is the man who exposed the need, and who refused to be satisfied with compromises. It is his responsibility to see that all the facts are exposed in the free air of Parliamentary debate and to give leadership to the members in forcing a decision on the basis of those facts without

concern as to where the chips may fall. He cannot have fulfilled his trust to the men in Holland and Italy until he has done so.

Ignoble Bout of Self-Pity

It is very hard for partisan minds when their views or policies are challenged or criticized to credit their opponents with sincerity or honesty of purpose. Their favorite tactic is to invent and attribute some sinister or unworthy motive to their opponents. Hence it comes that some defenders of Mr. King and his Government are very fond of asserting that certain newspapers in their crusade for the Government's adoption of policies which they believe to be in the national interest are less concerned about these policies than animated by personal dislike of the Prime Minister. It is an imputation which it is very easy to make, and it is not difficult to rebut.

In the appraisement of his public policies the question of Mr. King's personality and characteristics ought not to be a factor of serious moment when such great issues are at stake. But, unfortunately for Mr. King, he has a strange capacity for public performances which are calculated to stir up for him the dislike—it might even be said the contempt—of the average man in the street. He staged one such performance on Thursday when he pleaded plaintively with the House of Commons for greater consideration for the health of himself and his Ministers. He said:

As far as I am concerned, if I can prevent it, and having regard to the responsibility I have to the Canadian people, I will not allow honorable gentlemen opposite to seek to break down myself or other members of the Administration by forcing us at a pace which is absolutely unreasonable in the light of the circumstances of today and the responsibilities devolving on the members of the Government.

He and his colleagues, he explained, had been under a terrible strain carrying grave responsibilities. Poor Gen. McNaughton had been sitting up till 5 a.m. preparing his case for submission to Parliament, and he himself was so tired out by his desperate efforts during the past month to preserve national unity that he was

dubious whether he should assume the responsibility of addressing the House before Monday.

Altogether, it was a pathetic picture which he presented of himself—the careworn statesman near to physical exhaustion through his prodigious labors for the cause of national unity. Incidentally Mr. McNaughton made no such lamentation on his own behalf, but when he obviously had been pressed into a tight corner by his cross-examiners Mr. King came to his rescue with his plea for tenderness. We do not doubt that Mr. King and his new Minister have been laboring strenuously to extricate themselves from the morass of difficulties into which their joint policy of evasion has plunged them. But they have been carrying on these labors in an atmosphere of tranquil safety, without any physical discomforts, with ample food to sustain them, and soft beds to sleep in.

Surely their ordeal and their hardships are as dust in the balance beside the stern travail of service in the battle line which our brave soldiers are facing without complaint. Some of them are standing on guard night after night, weeks on end, amid the now-snowclad peaks of the Apennines in Italy, and others are in the Low Countries manning trenches for days on end while they are up to their waists in water. They are constantly exposed to the perils of death, and they are living on army rations and sleeping in their uniforms. What about some alleviation of the hardships of their ordeal, whose severity is increased when their ranks are thinned?

Mr. King and Mr. McNaughton are professedly engaged in an effort to send them much-needed reinforcements—without disrupting the so-called national unity. But what if they did lose a few hours' sleep in such a good cause? We have never heard of Mr. Churchill or Mr. Roosevelt or Marshal Stalin, all of whose labors and burdens must be infinitely greater than those of Mr. King, indulging publicly in self-pity about the physical weariness which they must often feel. Mr. King cannot expect to be regarded as a lovable or noble figure as long as he demeans his high office by such exhibitions while gallant men are enduring hardships far beyond any of his experiences and dying every day to save democratic freedom.

Ministers' Ridiculous Position

Those Ministers in Mr. King's Cabinet who have spoken in terms of the greatest gravity from time to time of the seriousness of this war must be searching their hearts these days. Few imposed reservations that could lead to the burlesque now staged for their performance. Their utterances were accepted by the public as unalterable convictions. When they mentioned total war the words had no uncertain meaning. When they called for mobilization of men and materials, national effort and national sacrifices none assumed they were speaking with tongue in cheek.

The people as a whole have been serious from the beginning. Even when the Prime Minister twisted and temporized they placed hope for consistency in senior Ministers who were not professional politicians. The war has been their war. They even have the satisfaction of knowing that their voice has been the impelling force which brought the Prime Minister along from his declaration of "No conscription" to the limited and reluctant step he has taken at last.

It has been a five-year battle on the home front to get this far, and the divided opinion expressed shows that the grudging concession to the demands of war has not brought credit to the Government for wholehearted and determined action. The so-called unity which has been uppermost in Mr. King's mind has not been served, and the army needs which the country as a whole is thinking of are being met in less than half fashion.

The ridiculous position in which the Cabinet is placed appears from the fact that one Minister resigned because he realized the necessity for conscription to aid the army, and another resigned as a protest against conscription.

These two men have seen the plays inside the Cabinet from the beginning of the war. From opposite points of view they believed their honor as Ministers was impugned. All have seen their old colleague, the Minister of National Defense, thrown to the wolves for refusing to fall in line with a temporizing half-hearted policy. They see a most remarkable plan adopted for reinforcing the army which in its initial stages at least appears to be neither one thing nor another, but a hope that a mixture of coercion and volunteering may still avoid the need of a definitely courageous stand. And all this to what end? Is the aim of this humiliating manoeuvring to help the men battling against great odds? Is it anything but political deception?

One thing is certain: The men overseas cannot be deceived. It is almost equally certain that the people of this country cannot be fooled by false moves. It is already apparent that national disunity, intensified by every step that has not led straight to the war effort, has been further aggravated. Mr. King can read about the spirit of antagonism that has been aroused in towns and cities, and can learn about what has happened in camps where Zombies and volunteers are mixed, if he wants to know the truth.

And in the midst of this the Prime Minister has given notice that he wants a vote of confidence in his Government from Parliament. His Government includes those Ministers who have been outspoken in behalf of the boys at the front, Messrs. Macdonald, Ilsley, Crerar, Gibson among them. Are they going to ask a vote of confidence? If so, in what? In this ignominious toying with the fate of gallant boys? In the throwing out of their colleague who stood up for the boys?

These Ministers are on record in speeches which are not supported by the course of their Leader. Will they be parties to further national humiliation?

The French Press

Have We Conscription or Not?

A study of the French papers of the province and the way they have handled the news from Ottawa in the last day or so indicates that they reflect the confusion that has been apparent in the Government's program insofar as reinforcements for the troops overseas is concerned.

Le Canada. Montreal morning paper, which hews closely to the Liberal line, carried the following sweep-lines on the front page yesterday: "Union cabinet is avoided; Voluntary system is maintained." Other headings stress that no conscripts will be needed if volunteers are found, and Mr. King's remarks, as to who there would be available to replace him if he decided to resign, are featured in a box. The resignation of the Hon. C. G. Power is given a very small heading down in the middle of the Ottawa story.

As a contrast, **L'Action Catholique** of Thursday night carried a large-face heading, "It's conscription," with a sub-heading to the effect that all the Quebec ministers would resign. **Montreal-Matin** yesterday said, "Conscription for overseas service decreed; 16,000 Canadians mobilized for defence of Canada to be sent overseas as reinforcements. Volt-face sows consternation throughout the country."

La Presse carried a front page heading, "Voluntary system has not been abandoned; Conscription applicable only should there be not sufficient volunteers." **La Presse** also carried a box entitled, "Who is there to put in Mr. King's place?" **L'Evenement** Journal of Quebec yesterday headlined its Ottawa story, "If the voluntary system fails, conscripts will go overseas." Two other Ottawa articles dealt with Power's resignation on the issue of conscription, and the departure from the Liberal party benches of Charles Parent and J. F. Pouliot.

La Patrie's heading said, "Government authorizes the despatch of 16,000 conscripts overseas for want

of sufficient volunteers." **Le Devoir** had a heading, "The despatch of 16,000 conscripts overseas: Mr. King capitulates before the conscriptionists' campaign."

From an editorial point of view **Le Canada** seems to indicate the official Liberal intentions in this province by stressing that the voluntary system is continued. "This method has not been exhausted. It still has proponents in the inner bosom of the Cabinet," the paper writes. **L'Action Catholique** takes the exact opposite stand. "Evasion is useless; it serves no purpose to play with words or juggle with figures. The Government has decided to have recourse to conscription."

La Presse says that Mr. King seems to have solved the difficulty by resorting to compromise: "Obliged by circumstances to choose between two evils, the Prime Minister has chosen that which he considers the least; rather than to see national unity disrupted and the country exposed to all kinds of disorders, he has decided to decree a certain measure of compulsion, should the voluntary system not suffice to maintain the formations of our army overseas."

La Patrie hopes that necessity will not force the practical implementation of the principle adopted. **Le Devoir** points to Mr. Cardin's statement that it is "conscription, pure and simple," and puts this up against **Le Canada's** claims that the voluntary system is still in force.

Montreal-Matin said, "It is certain that Mr. King would not have found himself in this impasse if his party had had the courage during the past twenty-five years to speak frankly to the public, to tell them that there is no war in lace frills; that there is no war without a measure of conscription, and that it must concern overseas service as well as other things."

Readers of French papers are, therefore, given a wide choice, and presumably the Government in Ottawa would have it so.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Letter to Gen. McNaughton

Sir,—You are reported as having stated at a public meeting recently, that you in 1939 advised the Government to follow the voluntary system of recruiting its Army, and that you take full responsibility for having done so.

In view of this statement from yourself, and since you are now the Minister in charge of this matter, I feel justified in writing you a few lines on the subject.

Notwithstanding your advice the King Government felt justified in 1941 to put the question before the electorate by way of a plebiscite, with the result that eight out of nine provinces authorized conscription. To date the wishes of the Canadian people have not been carried out. Even now when casualties amongst our boys overseas are heavy and reinforcements are badly needed the Government adheres to a policy contrary to the demands of the situation, and to the wishes of the Canadian people. In those circumstances your own attitude is incomprehensible.

The Government's policy on the matter is not bringing the desired results. I, therefore, suggest that our volunteered fighting men, overseas and at home, be allowed to decide the issue by a vote taken among them; for, after all, who has a better right to decide it than these men who are risking their lives as well as helping to finance this war and the home army, which is no longer needed?

After all, is there any doubt as to what the majority of the Canadian people desire in this regard? Is the voice of the people who supply the boys and who pay the costs of the war to be ignored?

MRS. A. G. BIRD.

Viking, Alta., November 9.



THE PARTING OF THE WAYS

Trained Men, Not Politics, the Need In Strengthening Canada's Army

The eyes of the world are on Canada again. On two occasions since this war started—the Churchill - Roosevelt meetings held at Quebec—the Allies looked toward Canada for the leadership they knew would be forthcoming. Now they look at Canada as the one and only country that is attempting to keep an army in the field without trained reinforcements — the one country that thinks we can reinforce the army by pleading with men to go overseas. Does any one know of any of our allies trying such a method? Canada is the one country using politics instead of trained men to build up an army.

It is not exaggerating things to say that Canada has not at any time had a surplus of trained reinforcements, and most of the time not sufficient. I spent nearly three years in the reinforcement area in England and know something of conditions there.

The Lesson of Dieppe

The present Minister of National Defense (Army) is the man who must have given approval to the Dieppe raid. He must have known, or should have known, the probable number of casualties of that "show." He should have known what men would be available to replace the losses. After the Dieppe raid, when the losses were fully known, it was found the infantry reinforcement units did not have sufficient to fill the gaps in the infantry units of the 2nd Division, and men were taken from the armored corps and machine-gun reinforcement units.

McNaughton's Job

We read that Gen. McNaughton is to comb the permanent staffs for high-category men to send overseas. As many of these men are confirmed N.C.O.'s, are they to be

"stripped" of their rank badges? In 1942 when reinforcements were needed it is reported that some 300 high-category men were to be taken from CMHQ in London and sent to field units. These men were to be replaced by CWAC's. The fact was apparently overlooked that the majority of these men were confirmed N.C.O.'s and could not be reduced except at their own request or by court-martial. So the 300 men were left at CMHQ and the CWAC's put in to assist them. At the end of October, 1943, we had about 3,000 or more on the strength of CMHQ. —quite a large number to administer the affairs of our army; practically the same condition as to comparative numbers obtained in the reinforcement units so far as permanent staff of these units was concerned.

If Gen. McNaughton did not know and now does not know that his pet idea of a Canadian army cannot be carried out, it is time he did find out, and certainly time he found out he cannot perform the old "hat trick" and produce trained men from thin air.

Still Little Done

Col. Ralston returned from his tour of Italy and France about six weeks ago and very little has been done to bring assistance to the army but a lot of talk. All that has been done is to replace Ralston with McNaughton—and the replacement has not been a popular one—and we have the unprecedented spectacle of the Prime Minister of Canada making a radio recruiting speech and this in the sixth year of the war.

Let us get down to brass tacks and reduce the army — which we cannot support—to either a corps or a division, whichever we can successfully support, and get on with the war.

G. R. Forbes, Major (Ret.).

Halifax, N.S.

RCAPC.

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Every fiction that has ever laid strong hold on human belief is the mistaken image of some great truth. —Martineau.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25.

MR. KING'S VOLUNTARY CONSCRIPTS.

Yesterday one Canadian newspaper carried the headline: "This is conscription." Another newspaper, also Canadian and also appearing yesterday, was headlined: "The voluntary system is maintained."

The curious fact that such a thing could happen arises from the way in which Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King has been concentrating his efforts to deprive the two names—"conscription" and "voluntary system"—of their distinct meanings. For Mr. King, beset by his present embarrassments, is seeking a characteristic way out by recurring to what the law knows as a "legal fiction." He has not been able to conceal from others his recognition of the fact that compulsion will have to be employed to meet the reinforcement need. But if he could employ conscription, and yet, by some manner or means, still call it the voluntary system, he might hope to have a last chance of escaping from the very awkward corner into which his policies have led him. Now, as never before, Mr. King believes that there is everything in a name.

Mr. King himself dropped a hint Thursday in Parliament as to how these incompatibles are to be combined, and how a word which describes one system is to be used to describe its opposite. This hint appeared, of course, in a form disarmingly simple. Mr. King merely happened to mention in passing that any draftee now in the Home Defence Army would be free to volunteer for overseas service up to the moment his commanding officer detailed him to go overseas under the compulsory service authorization.

But what this procedure will mean in practice is crudely clear. When the next instalment of reinforcements will be sent overseas next month, there will not be enough volunteers to meet the requirements. This the Government has found itself compelled to admit. The Home Defence Army is the only source from which this deficiency can be made up. This, too, the Government has admitted. But the men of the Home Defence Army have not been enlisting in sufficient numbers. This, again, the Government has not been able to deny. Notwithstanding all these facts, the men from the Home Defence Army who will begin to be moved overseas will still be technically volunteers and not conscripts.

The new technique to be adopted in securing volunteers from the Home Defence Army may be detected quite easily by reading between the lines of Mr. King's brief statement. Until the present, a Home Defence soldier who did not wish to volunteer for active service overseas, remained in Canada. Now, however, he may be informed by his commanding officer that he has been detailed to be sent overseas by compulsion. His choice will now be drastically changed. It will be no longer a choice between going overseas and staying in this country. It will now be a choice between going overseas as a conscript or as a volunteer.

Obviously, therefore, all the advantages (and consequently all the inducements) of remaining a draftee will be taken away. Those who choose to retain their draftee status would have to perform all the duties and assume all the risks of overseas service without all the practical special privileges and rewards which the Government has specifically reserved for the volunteers. Under these circumstances, few indeed possessed of normal reason or the normal instinct of self-interest will feel any inclination to cling to the valueless status of the draftee. And at once to accommodate them and to dramatically intensify their choice, they will be allowed until the last moment to decide.

So it is that Mr. King will apply a limited conscription while continuing to call it the voluntary system. Mr. King will then be able to declare, even after the men from Canada's Home Defence Army have begun to arrive overseas, that he has not found himself under the necessity of abandoning his cherished voluntary system. The men themselves, he will then declare, came forward and volunteered. In this way will the Government's faith in the voluntary system be justified and the Government's faith with the anti-conscriptionists will be unbetrayed.

But there are natural limits even to human credulity. By so flagrant a breach alike of good faith and of commonsense even the eyes of the blind will be opened. The anti-conscriptionists in Canada are already beginning to see through Mr. King's manoeuvres; while those who favor the principle of compulsory military service (though gratified to see the door to conscription edged open) will be no less disgusted than the anti-conscriptionists with Mr. King's new procedure.

The only alternative, now that conscription has become inevitable, is to make the compulsory system honest by making it undisguised, and to make it just by making it equal. The political legerdemain should be ended. Only a compulsory system, put into practice fully and fairly, will be compatible with the national dignity of this country, and with the self-respect of the draftees themselves. The fact is that Mr. King, trying to make the best of his bad business, is only making it worse.

MR. KING PUTS IT SIMPLY.

Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King said Thursday in the House of Commons that there is apt to be confusion in the public mind on the status of men who will move overseas following authorization to conscript 16,000 draftees.

He said he would seek to put the position simply by saying that "if there were 1,000 men called under the National Resources Mobilization Act in a camp and none volunteered they would still be N.R.M.A. men a week from now. But if some volunteered, they would become General Service men."

"If those General Service men are sent overseas the public may assume that they are other than the N.R.M.A. men of today. But they would not be, they would be exactly the same men."

Mr. King deserves much credit for the lucidity with which he has simplified his position.

The

WILL REINFORCEMENTS BE IN TIME?

The stubborn delay of the Government in making draftees available for overseas service has imposed a serious discount on the effective value of its belated decision.

There remains a confused uncertainty as to how soon and to what extent this decision is to be implemented, without further desperate experimenting with the demonstrated inadequacy of the volunteer system. There has been no clear-cut, unequivocal undertaking to despatch overseas all of even the limited number of 16,000 draftees made subject to battle service.

But even if this qualified measure of conscription is implemented fully and immediately, it is highly questionable — one could reasonably say improbable — that it will go more than part way toward meeting the reinforcement need by the time it is expected to become acute. By all indications, no substantial number of draftees (or ex-draftee volunteers) will reach the battle areas until a month after the reliably estimated time that "a considerable aggregate shortage in infantry reinforcements will have developed." And even then, the arrivals will likely fail in full measure to replenish the reinforcement pools to the extent of the anticipated shortage as it will stand a month previous.

In his public statement two weeks ago, Col. J. L. Ralston, former Defence Minister, reported that this aggregate shortage would come to a head by the end of December, and was forecast to increase progressively in ensuing months. At the time he was overseas Col. Ralston found enough reinforcements in battle areas or being moved forward to provide normal replacements, but an inadequate backlog or pool to meet unusually heavy casualties or to ensure that progressive depletions would be met in future.

As Minister, he had found that it would take at least two months for reinforcements to reach the battle areas from Canada from the time the Government decided to send draftees overseas. Col. Ralston resigned October 31 in protest against the Government's refusal to meet the deficiency of trained volunteers with draftee reinforcements. So that even if the Government had acted then, the 8,000 fully trained infantry draftees would barely have had time to get overseas to fill the reinforcement gap at the time it became acute.

But these 8,000, some of whom would not have got to the front until January 15, would have "made up the December shortage soon after January 1," according to Col. Ralston. The remaining 8,000, trained as infantry but not fully ready for combat service, could have reached the battle areas early in February.

Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, new Defence Minister, told the House of Commons this week that 5,000 additional trained infantry must be "available early in December to safeguard the position at the end of January." But according to Col. Ralston's estimate of the time required for mustering, organization, transportation and final refresher training in England, it will be mid-February before all of this first contingent will reach the battle areas, even if they are despatched as soon as becoming "available."

Thus they would not be in position for combat service until a month to six weeks after Col. Ralston's considered estimate of the time of "considerable aggregate shortage in infantry" overseas, and they would number 3,000 less than Col. Ralston's estimate of the total that should have been despatched by November 1 at the latest.

And to what can this time lag of a month to six weeks be attributed? First to the two weeks of resistance by the Government to sending draftees overseas, between the time Col. Ralston first reported the crisis and the time he resigned. And next to the further three weeks or more of delay before the Government finally acted, time consumed in speeches over the radio, waiting for the assembly of Parliament and just plain stalling.

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The subject who is truly loyal to the Chief
Magistrate will neither advise nor submit to
arbitrary measures.—JUNIUS.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1944.

New Education Plan at Hand

Premier Drew has told the Association of Ontario Public School Trustees and Ratepayers that his Government's undertaking to assume 50 per cent of the cost of education will be implemented in the coming year, and that school boards will be advised next month of the system by which it is to be done.

This is the answer of Mr. Drew, who is also Minister of Education, to the clamant criticism levelled at him for months in a tone implying that he had no intention of carrying out his pledge. He has ignored the barbed thrusts with commendable patience, justified by the sincerity of his purpose. Any fair-minded person would realize that so great a change in providing for education costs under a system which has grown from pioneering simplicity to much complexity without departing from a fundamental principle would call for much study. Mr. Drew made the promise in his election campaign evidently convinced that the change he had in mind was imperative, and, this being so, that it could and must be made. If he asked time to consider the multiplicity of details, it should have been viewed as an expression of his earnestness in establishing a sound basis for the future.

In stating that the method to be followed will be available in a little more than two weeks, it is made clear that a great part of the work has been done, although Mr. Justice Hope, the Royal Commissioner, has yet to take up the academic and financial points entrusted to him. It probably is significant that when the details go out they will be addressed to the school boards rather than the councils which have had to find the funds for mounting school costs. In this connection it is pertinent to recall the terms under which the pledge was given:

There will be a sweeping revision of our whole system of real estate taxation so that the owning and improvement of homes and farm land, which are the very foundation of our society, will not be discouraged by excessive taxation. As an initial step in that direction, the Provincial Government will assume at least 50 per cent of the school taxes now charged against real estate. It is, however, to be clearly understood that this change will not affect the authority of the local school boards.

This initial aim will have to be kept in mind when the tendency arises to compare benefits obtained in various localities. There is a difference between rural areas where really is the only source of municipal income and urban districts where auxiliary forms of taxation are found. In many rural municipalities most of the tax levy goes to education, and is so high that the other amenities are neglected. In a city like Toronto about 37 per cent went to schools this year, in the case of public schools, with separate school costs relatively higher. The rural districts as a whole will gain more than the urban ones, and among them are areas where the new system will bring greatly essential relief.

There is another aim, however, which outweighs the first in importance: the desire, as expressed by the Premier, to assure, as far as possible, equality of educational opportunity throughout the whole of Ontario. To reach this worthy objective it is necessary for the Province to assume a heavy share of the costs. And here is a test of good citizenship. Surely no one will claim that because a child is born in a school district with small financial means its education should be proportionately meagre. Moreover, the Provincial Government, responsible for the standards of education, is also morally responsible for their even distribution.

The immensity of the undertaking is apparent at once when it is realized that the Province has 5,827 school boards, and, as the Premier explained, "hardly any two of them have exactly the same local problems." To have reached the point where the program of aid can be adopted in 1945 is an achievement for which the Government should have the fullest praise.

The school program is undoubtedly the most difficult of the 22 pledges given, due to its complex nature. Premier Drew has already done a great deal by reorganizing the department of which he took personal charge because of his great interest in the welfare of youth. He lost no time in proceeding to implement his full program. He has done a remarkable job so far, and this should testify to his earnestness in carrying through his undertaking in behalf of the school children.

The New Disunity

Thinking citizens have good cause for apprehension over the disunity into which this nation has been plunged. Few can longer argue its causes. Even in attempting to do that which immutable facts and public opinion drove him to do, Prime Minister King could not act forthrightly. He could not say conscription is necessary; we shall have conscription. He had to attempt one last partisan manoeuvre in the hope of saving political power.

In doing so, he spread greater misunderstanding, new disillusionment, deeper resentment in all sections of the country. But it is not now a partitioning of the country—one Province against eight—which we have to fear most. For too long all consideration for unity has been focused on what Quebec might do or refuse to do. There has developed what amounts to a psychosis, an absorbing fear that only she could destroy the whole. Seldom if ever have our so-called leaders measured the danger to unity from the other side, the effect upon the people of the other eight Provinces of constant submission to minority rule.

It is that disunity, the separation of the disillusioned, discouraged, frustrated individuals which we have most to fear. The seed of that disunity is well and widely sown. Recently Mr. Ralph Allen, The Globe and Mail's war correspondent, whose vividly human despatches appear in many newspapers, wrote of the reaction of battle-weary Canadian troops to the reinforce-

ment crisis. He described one group "almost as weary of the draft issue as of the war itself," and observed:

From this group will come the twisted idealists and full-time cynics of Canada's next postwar generation.

That sentence is well worth pondering. In it is the whole story of what a cowardly manpower policy has done. "The twisted idealists and full-time cynics. . . ." How do men who voluntarily accepted the full sacrifice of war get this way? Surely there is nothing partisan, nothing sectional, nothing racial in their judgment? How would any one waiting for help that did not come get this way? Away for years and out of touch, those disillusioned young minds have only their own response to first principles, their own conception of what is fair, decent and equitable to guide them. And so they judge.

Is it any wonder that after five years they should become full-time cynics? To what leadership have they to look for fairness, decency and equity in the future? But they are not alone. A full harvest of twisted, disordered dissenters is being reaped at home. We have only to go back as far as last Thursday. In Quebec there have been demonstrations. There the Union Jack and the English-language newspapers have again been set upon as the symbols of racial hatred. Who will dare call it a natural reaction? Has it not been induced by Government policy?

In British Columbia at least four military camps have seen demonstrations against the Government's policy. At Prince George, headquarters of the 6th Division, there were three demonstrations in two days. At Vernon 200 demonstrators risked serious breach of discipline and assault of an officer to protest. Is it natural that men trained in the same uniform should be fighting one another? Is their animosity not the outcome of a two-army policy which need never have been?

At Oakville, Ont., on the outskirts of Toronto, there has been friction developing between French-speaking draftees, stationed there as a labor corps, and the townsfolk. Oakville is not a centre of racialism. The people do not separate themselves from their fellow-Canadians because of race or creed. The thing they protest is Government policy—its inequitable distribution of the obligations of citizenship.

It is clear to all how the people of Quebec have been misled down through the years by leaders who dealt only in the currency of votes. But too seldom has there been consideration for the disunity which Quebec's miseducation was nourishing in the rest of the country. If it was possible to miseducate French-speaking Canadians it was possible for those who had their confidence to instruct them in truth and fact had they desired to do so. There is not an excuse for not having done so. Every action of the Government since midsummer, 1940, shows it clearly envisaged the probability on which it has had to act.

Had the national Leader stood forth then and stated the truth, who in Canada would have refused to co-operate? Had the Prime Minister had the courage to stand forth three weeks ago, or even last Wednesday, and stated the case as he knew it, would things not have been very different? All that was required was a full and frank statement of why full and equal co-operation was necessary. But he did not, because he could not face the political product of his own dishonest teaching. Clearly the task of leadership in the future is well defined in and heavily weighted with his failures.

RALSTON'S VOTE MAY INFLUENCE PARTY'S FUTURE

By R. K. CARNEGIE

Ottawa, Nov. 26 (CP).—A thoughtful and experienced member of Parliament today told the Canadian Press he was confident the fate of the Liberal Government would hinge on how Hon. J. L. Ralston, former Defense Minister, votes on Prime Minister Mackenzie King's confidence motion in the Commons this week.

"If Col. Ralston votes confidence in the Government," he said, "then I think the Government will stand, but if he votes 'no' then it seems to me enough members will follow his lead that even if the Ministry is not defeated the margin would be so small that Mr. King would seriously consider resigning."

The debate will open tomorrow in the House when Mr. King will move his confidence motion in a speech in which he is expected to state the Cabinet's policy now that authority has been taken under Order-in-Council to send 16,000 draftees overseas.

If all those so far dissatisfied with the Government united against the motion, the anti-conscriptionists because they oppose this step by the Ministry and the others because the step has not gone far enough, they could only muster 98 of the 245 seats in Commons, 11 are vacant.

So the Canadian Press informant has figured it out that it all depends on how Col. Ralston votes. If he votes "yes" to Mr. King's motion then the Government would have a majority which, taking cognizance that the Opposition would be completely divided, would encourage it to carry on. In fact, if Mr. Ralston supports the motion the C. C. F. members are likely to follow him on the ground that if the policy is good enough for him it is good enough for them.

But if Mr. Ralston decides the Government's proposal is not good enough and votes against it, then it is believed, other English speaking Liberals would follow his lead and that is where the possibility arises of the Government losing out.

Never since the defeat of the Government of Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen in 1926 has the vote of one private member meant so much.

Discipline Tightened In Home Defense Units After Demonstrations

Ottawa, Nov. 26 (Staff).—Tension remained high tonight in military camps of the Pacific Command following five separate week-end demonstrations by Home Defense troops against the King Government's conscription policy. All draftee camps throughout Canada have been subjected to tight discipline, and there were no new reports of disturbances in Quebec, where students last Thursday shouted "Down with conscription" and tore bulletins from an English-language newspaper building.

Home Defense troops in Vernon, B.C., staged three demonstrations in two days, and one officer was knocked down and injured slightly when he urged the paraders to "break it up." Rene Gouin, a member of an army unit stationed at Prince George, B.C., was turned over to army provosts yesterday by Provincial Police after making restitution of \$12 for removing a Union Jack from a flagpole and tearing it. Military police are searching for a companion of Gouin. The flag-tearing incident came in the wake of a parade by 800 Home Defense soldiers in Prince George Saturday afternoon. They shouted "Down with conscription." Later they boarded trucks and returned to camp.

Reports Conflicting

There were conflicting reports of the size of the Vernon disturbances. One despatch referred to between 300 and 900 men from Vernon military camp taking part in the anti-conscription demonstration. Defense Headquarters here late Saturday placed the figure at some 200, declaring the incident was of "small proportions."

The Vernon soldiers paraded four abreast in the street and called for conscription of wealth and industry as well as manpower.

Provosts followed the marchers as they snaked through the town, but no attempt was made to check the parade. A biting snowstorm had that effect, and the men quickly dispersed. Earlier Saturday several hundred draftees paraded through the streets of Terrace, an inland town about 100 miles east of Prince Rupert, in the northern part of British Columbia. They shouted "Down with the Canadian Legion," as well as "Down with conscription." Two unidentified officers came in for some rough handling during the Vernon demonstration. In addition to the officer who was bruised and shaken up when hit by a marcher, another officer was pushed around when he attempted to break up the parade. No arrests were made. At Vancouver it was officially stated by Pacific Command headquarters that there was no basis for anxiety in the situation.

Two Provosts Hurt

At Chilliwack, B.C., a town in the Fraser Valley, two platoons of approximately 130 men patrolled the streets Saturday night following a demonstration and parade by more than 150 Home Defense troops. Two provosts, Cpl. Smith and Sgt. Kavias, were given hospital treatment for minor injuries after they scuffled with the draftees in an attempt to break up the parade. A veteran of this war, John Davidson, was pushed into the road by the marching men, but was not hurt. The unit involved in the demonstration is composed of English and French Canadians from all parts of Canada. Chilliwack is 75 miles east of Vancouver.

The Prince George disturbance was featured by the flag-tearing incident. The soldier held responsible for tearing the flag, Rene Gouin, is alleged to have removed it from a flagpole at the newspaper office of the Prince George Citizen late Saturday night.

A window in the Canadian Legion hall at Courtenay, B.C., was broken by draftees from a camp at Sandwick, two miles away. No attempt was made to break up the parade.

Hamilton, Nov. 26 (Staff).—According to Revenue Minister Colin Gibson, member for Hamilton West, the form of conscription imposed by the Order-in-Council last week is "full and complete." The decision to send only 16,000 draftees overseas immediately indicates a limitation in requirements, not in Government support of the men overseas, he claimed. "With the exception of one, members of the Government have endorsed the policy unanimously, and additional draftees can be sent overseas by the Cabinet at a moment's notice." He expressed confidence that the move will receive the support in all parts of the country and "that the magnificent war effort of Canada will be continued unimpaired."

'Words, Words, Words'

Polonius—What do you read, my lord?

Hamlet—Words, words, words!

And that last line sums up exactly how we feel after reading Mr. Mackenzie King's letters in reply to Col. Ralston. And "words, words, words," was no doubt the reflection of many people after listening recently to Mr. King's circumlocutory and casuistic speech on the air in the country's hour of crisis. What manner of man is this who juggles with words, adroitly, before a drop-curtain behind which deploy the most stupendous tragedies of all time?

With regard to the word "necessary," which comes up in the correspondence, one would assume that every forthright Canadian took that word to mean, primarily, necessary-in-a-military-sense (Col. Ralston, as ex-soldier, and man of action, undoubtedly did); nevertheless, Mr. King seems to imply subtly that was not his definition. Can such things be, or have I read it wrongly?

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, "it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less."

Well, we all know what happened to Humpty Dumpty!... and all the king's horses and men couldn't help him (so the P.M. shouldn't rely on the "zombies" too much).

Kipling's View

Rudyard Kipling, in the last war, deplored politicians so often meddling in military matters, to the detriment of the latter. He wrote

the following lines, in a certain bitterness of spirit, about what he had observed. They seem very applicable to the political impasse in Canada at present:

They shall not return to us, the strong men coldly slain
In sight of help denied from day to day:

But the men who edged their agonies and chid them in their pain,
Are they too strong and wise to put away?

Shall we only threaten and be angry for an hour?

When the storm is ended shall we find
How softly but how swiftly they have slid back to power

By the favor and contrivance of their kind?

Even while they soothe us, while they promise large amends,
Even while they make a show of fear,

Do they call upon their debtors, and take council with their friends
To confirm and re-establish each career?

They do indeed!

Toronto. Edith Willock Smith.

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Patience is not passive: on the contrary it is active; it is concentrated strength.

MONTREAL, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27.

WHEN WILL THIS CONFUSION END?

Over the entire policy of the Government on the conscription issue there has descended an air of curious unreality. The absence of frankness and consistency has produced a cloud of bewilderment and contradiction. A clear demand is being met with hesitance. Forced by battlefield realities into a change in its standing policy, the Government is seeking to restrict the extent of the change and even to disguise its implications.

Nothing is more curious than the way in which the change came to be adopted. On October 31—less than a month ago—Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King requested the resignation of Col. J. L. Ralston on the grounds that Col. Ralston believed that the Home Defence personnel should be used to fill reinforcement gaps which could be met in no other way. On November 6—only 10 days ago—the Prime Minister addressed the nation by radio to declare that the Government was committed to the voluntary system. On November 16—only 11 days ago—Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton publicly and forcibly denied rumors to the effect that he had in any way changed his mind upon the feasibility of maintaining the voluntary system.

But this same consistent declaration of Government policy was maintained throughout the first day of the special session of Parliament. In a remarkably prolonged address before the House on Thursday, November 23—only four days ago—Gen. McNaughton declared that the Government was determined to exhaust the voluntary system before drawing upon the Home Defence personnel by compulsion. But on the very same day Gen. McNaughton announced that the order in council had been passed making the Home Defence troops available for overseas service. The next day, Friday, he revealed that details for the despatch of the first 10,000 had already been worked out.

Indeed, Gen. McNaughton himself admitted the abruptness with which the Government's policy had been changed, and admitted it in an oddly naive way. "Knowing the tremendous amount of detail which is required in working out a movement of that sort," he remarked, "it gives a wonderful feeling of confidence in the minister, who after giving an order of the kind, can go back on the following morning and find that the thing is complete and is placed before him so that he has merely to say, 'Yes, that is satisfactory.'"

So it is that the country is presented with the spectacle of the Defence Minister maintaining until Thursday, November 23 that he was upholding a policy different from his predecessor, and then adopting the policy and plans for which his predecessor was asked to resign.

But the instability and furtiveness of the Government appears not only in its sudden change of mind, but in the fact that even after having accepted the necessity for conscription it fails again to face with any convincing frankness the implications of its new decision. Apparently it feels that conscription is so bad and dangerous a thing that it should be reduced to the smallest possible dimensions. In this way it seems to hope that the anti-conscriptionists, which Mr. King has insistently repeated would rend the country, will swallow a gnat, though they would strain at a camel.

This furtiveness, however, ignores the principle involved. Now that Mr. King himself has adopted conscription he is anxious that it should not appear as that same fearful thing which he has always sought to picture it. But his method recalls certain words of Matthew Arnold, the eminent English critic of the nineteenth century. Dealing with the difficulties that some persons had in his day in accepting the miraculous, he pointed out that these difficulties were not to be lessened by seeking to reduce the element of the miraculous to its smallest proportions. "It is as if we were startled," he said, "by the extravagance of supposing Cinderella's fairy godmother to have actually changed the pumpkin into a coach and six, but suggested that she did no more than change it into a one-horse brougham." Mr. King hopes that nobody will be unduly astonished at his conscription measure because it is so limited. But the evidence is already becoming clear that he will receive little consideration from the anti-conscriptionists for the thoughtful softening of his policy.

But the policy of partial conscription raises difficulties other than the obvious fearfulness that motivates it. For partial conscription is the most unfair of all methods of raising troops. It is an elementary principle of military administration that the soldiers should receive fair and equal treatment. To make conscription partial is to make it inevitably discriminatory. Under this system one is left and another taken; one must fight overseas while another is permitted to remain in Canada; the men in one camp are abruptly made subject to overseas service while those in another camp retain unchanged their Home Defence status. It is essential, now that the principle of conscription has been admitted, to make the whole of the Home Defence Army subject to overseas service. The dual categories should be promptly abolished.

The Government's policy of partial conscription, more deeply, will perpetuate and even strengthen in the men of the Home Defence Army the feeling that they are to become involved in still further political expedients. For several years they have been subjected by the Government itself to all manner of slurs, because they did not volunteer. Now that the Government has accepted conscription, they are to be subject to discriminating methods of selection for their new overseas duties. The serious feature is that the Government, by its uncoordinated and politically-minded policies, has created a group of political malcontents, who are and will long remain, fertile ground for propaganda of a more extreme kind. A sign of what is happening is very clearly seen in the report that a thousand draftees from the camp at Vernon in British Columbia paraded down the town's main street shouting: "Conscript wealth and industry, as well as manpower." That slogan has a well-known party ring.

From the evasion of its voluntary system the Government has now passed to a policy of evasive conscription. No good—no soundness of national health—can come from such a continued failure in frankness. If the issue could only be kept clear, the present Parliament could yet rise to it and meet it. We are simply faced with the inescapable obligation of seeing that the soldiers overseas receive our sufficient backing. We will neither serve the men abroad nor our nation at home unless we see matters clearly and act with clear purpose. In politics Mr. King has yet to prove that honesty is not the best policy.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Raps Officers' Resignations

Sir,—Today came another announcement of the resignation of a high military officer, Brigadier McFarlane. What can our army officers be thinking of? Our army is facing the most crucial days, the final days of this war.

Everyone agrees that the Germans are prepared for a last ditch fight, even though a losing one. And at this time, when our husbands, our men overseas, have a right to expect a united army command and country behind them, they find instead a terrible confusion. Politics and racial issues are being raised in a dastardly fashion, when all of us should be putting everything we have behind the support of our men facing the final battles of the war.

What right have high ranking officers to resign their posts in the midst of war? If our men did that they would be called deserters. And I'm sorry to say that is the way I feel about General Stuart, Brigadier McFarlane and all the others who take such action in time of war. Their job is to carry on the war.

Our Government, with the help of General McNaughton, has built a wonderful army in this war, and given the country good leadership and under difficult conditions. Canada has no reason to feel ashamed of its contribution to the Allied cause. General McNaughton has earned the love and respect of our men overseas. Let's all get together to finish the job. Our men expect it of us, as they have a right to do. It is the least we can do for them.

(MRS.) BELLA BRENTON.
Montreal, November 24.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1944.

IN CARDIN IS TO VOTE AGAINST OLD CHIEF

Former Cabinet Minister
Says Conscription Now
in Effect in Canada

NOISY MEETING HERE

Cardin Says He Is Not to
Announce Organization of
New Canadian Political Party

Hon. P. J. A. Cardin, who resigned from the Mackenzie King cabinet when the government amended the Mobilization Act to provide for overseas conscription, followed the plebiscite for which Mr. Cardin asked the people to vote, told a large crowd at the Chomedey school hall, Maisonneuve, last night that overseas conscription exists, and has existed since Mr. King read the order-in-council to the House of Commons last Thursday.

Mr. Cardin said that he would vote against the motion of confidence in the government, now before the House of Commons. Though its language was ambiguous and various interpretations were being given of it, he, Mr. Cardin, interpreted that motion in the light of the order-in-council for sending conscripts overseas. Therefore, to vote for the motion meant voting approval of overseas conscription, and he was against that today as in 1942 when he had broken with the government of which he had been a member.

Mr. Cardin said he had not come to announce the formation of a political party, nor to launch any political creed, but merely to give the people an accounting of his mandate in company with his young friend, Sarto Fournier, M.P. for Maisonneuve, who had followed the same line as he had at Ottawa.

NOISY MEETING.

There were only two speakers, one being Sarto Fournier and the other Mr. Cardin. Mr. Fournier did not make the speech he had gone to make, for there were groups of noisy people in the rear who made it almost impossible for him to continue more than an odd sentence or two together, and Mr. Fournier used more than an hour in addressing appeals to these trouble makers and asking them to see that Mr. Cardin was given a fair hearing.

Mr. Cardin did get a fair hearing, and even an enthusiastic one, but this was only after Jacques Sauriol who had been Bloc Populaire Canadian candidate at the recent provincial elections, had been bodily put out of the hall for insisting that he be allowed to speak as Mr. Cardin was about to begin. Mr. Fournier tried to get Mr. Sauriol to desist, but it was in vain. Sauriol wanted 10 minutes on the platform, then five minutes, and when it was evident that he would not be silent, half a dozen men seized him and escorted him outside. No blows were struck, as far as could be seen.

Mr. Fournier's appeal to the trouble makers, whose grievance, or ostensible grievance, was that he had advised the people to vote "yes" in the plebiscite, was not to make of overseas conscription a racial affair, and thereby lose the sympathy and help of English-speaking citizens in the other provinces, and he felt that such sympathy and support for the French-Canadian viewpoint did exist, and should not be lost through excesses. Some people in the other provinces wanted French-Canadians to lose their heads, and urged that the people do not fall into the trap.

"They are trying to provoke us and hope that we will break the windows of the Star or The Gazette," said Mr. Fournier. "Windows have been broken for many years, but the pieces never built up a people."

The plea to French-Canadians not to lose the goodwill of the English people in the other provinces was also dealt with by Mr. Cardin, and he said that sympathy with the French-Canadian position did exist in the other provinces, and would be shown at the appropriate time. He asked the people of Quebec to bear in mind that it was difficult for many English-speaking people, including members, to manifest this sympathy openly at times, since it would expose them and their families to persecution, and political and social odium. They would be attacked by the papers in the other provinces. However, Mr. Cardin felt that there was a strong sympathy with the Quebec position in the other provinces, only waiting for the proper time to manifest itself.

Mr. Cardin pleaded for a new medium of communication with the English provinces on behalf of the province of Quebec, and the French-Canadians. This was a sincere and heartfelt plea, he declared, which grew out of his long experience that the English-speaking people of Quebec interpreted the province of Quebec to their compatriots in the other provinces. It would be to their own interest and to the interest of Canada if the English-speaking people of Quebec, who live in harmony with the French-Canadians, were always fairly treated, and enabled to get rich in the province, were to be the ambassadors and properly explain the French-Canadian attitude to the

of Ontario and other provinces wanted nothing more than to understand how the French-Canadians feel in this matter of conscription, but unfortunately they were not told. True, said Mr. Cardin, there had been men from this province, French-Canadian leaders, who had gone into the other province to claim the rights of Quebec and the French-Canadians, but they had not spoken clearly, and had surrounded their demands with flowers.

Mr. Cardin still showed he had retained his charm of speaking, once he had got under way. He said he had never sought honors, and admitted that he could have had honors by getting out of the cabinet peaceably, but had preferred principles, as had Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Those who had followed Laurier as he had done many years ago, he said, did not think they measured up to the Laurier stature but he for one intended to follow his example, come what may. He felt that time would justify him, even if those who had rushed to take his estate when he had dropped out had hastened to establish a campaign of silence about him so that people would forget him. There were some independent papers which mentioned what he did, and he was grateful to them.

HAS NO REGRETS.

"I do not regret what I did and if it were all to do over again I would do it," said Mr. Cardin. "I have the proud satisfaction of knowing that I have the respect of the House, specially the English-speaking members, on the stand I took. They had congratulated me on my act of courage."

Mr. Cardin said that the French-Canadians have done their full duty in this war, and if the matter was properly viewed they had done more than their English-speaking compatriots, for there had to be taken into consideration the fact that the English-Canadians in coming forward in this war had listened to their blood and hearts, and this could not be expected of a people whose blood, mentality, and education was different. The French-Canadians who had gone overseas had done so after deliberate reflection. These things should be explained in the other provinces.

Men such as Major McLennan of Halifax spoke for the best English thought in Canada, said Mr. Cardin, and he recommended that those English people of Quebec who might hesitate to defend the French-Canadians to the other provinces should read the McLennan speech. Major McLennan had strongly denounced the odious campaign being waged against French-Canadians.

As to the present conscription issue, Mr. Cardin said that, unfortunately, what he had predicted in 1942 had now happened, and conscription existed. Col. Ralston had been ousted because he wanted conscription, and Gen. McNaughton a man of integrity, without a political past, and who deserved credit for his fine work, had been called in, and announced by Mr. King as a man who favored the voluntary system and was against conscription. Mr. King had made that matter clear in his radio speech, Mr. Cardin said.

Parliament had been called for November 22 for the purpose of hearing the explanations of Gen. McNaughton against a conscription policy, but before the general could speak, Mr. King read an order-in-council putting conscription into effect. His new minister was not given a chance to explain his views on the subject, and yet Parliament had been called for that purpose. The order-in-council spoke of 16,000 men, but the order-in-council permitted the military au-

thorities to send overseas all other conscripts now in uniform and those who would be conscripted in the future. That order-in-council must be read in conjunction with the motion of confidence.

"I have the intention of voting against this motion, as I voted against the other measures I have enumerated," said Mr. Cardin, the other measures being those dealing with gifts to Britain and Allied nations.

Mr. Cardin said that a western member had put the situation well when he had said that perhaps Canada had taken a too big mouthful, and had elaborated too great a war program. If so, said Mr. Cardin, let Canada reduce that program according to its means and circumstances. Mr. Cardin said that he prayed that a ray of light would be shed upon the minds of those who rule the country, and that next week would see a change of heart, even if it was only one many changes which Mr. King had made. There were many people in Ontario, he said, who did not want to swallow conscription, but did not say so because they did not have the same liberty as the people in Quebec, even liberty to shout at speakers as this evening. There was once a premier in this country, one who had gone overseas, who had expressed a true Canadianism, one of "Canada First" to use his own words, and that sentiment existed with many people in the other provinces.

FULL CONSCRIPTION.

Mr. Cardin said there is a great deal of cabal going about at present in regard to the motion of confidence waiting the attention of the House of Commons. Some people whispered said that it did not mean what he, Mr. Cardin, believed it to mean, and that it meant a mitigated system of conscription, "just a little conscription." Other whisperers said that if the motion was not voted it would mean something worse, and others said that the order-in-council was only a partial conscription. The order-in-council was full conscription, he said. Then, there were people who said if the motion was not voted there would be a union government, and we must be careful not to have a union government.

"I am not afraid of a union government," said Mr. Cardin. "A union government is not dangerous because it was a union government, but a government, union or otherwise, was dangerous for what it did. It is the policy of a government which may be dangerous. I am not afraid of a union government composed of men of goodwill, men such as Major McLennan, for example. What could a union government do more as regards conscription? We have it. A union government would not have to give itself the trouble of imposing conscription. We have conscription imposed by this government, and it exists at the present moment. It has been in force since November 23."



AWKWARD MOMENTS ON PARLIAMENT HILL

What has now become of the men's willingness to go if ordered? Their announced willingness is denied by their actions during the past few days. The fact remains that if they are needed they will be sent. As soldiers under military discipline they had no right to participate in the demonstrations staged. In one case they arrived at their parading point in military trucks. Did they use these with the acquiescence of their commanding officers? If they did, discipline in these Home Defence units must be extremely lax, and the commanding officers have something to answer for to the Department of National Defence.

GEN. McNAUGHTON'S TRIBUTE TO COLONEL RALSTON

GENERAL McNAUGHTON and Colonel Ralston have been at odds over the method by which reinforcements should be provided for the Canadian Army overseas. In the House debate the former Minister of National Defence questioned his successor closely and, with the brilliance of the cross-examining lawyer, elicited from him a great deal of information.

Both on the floor of the House and in the galleries it was noted, however, that these two men who might be forgiven for seeking personal vindication, maintained a high level of debate which should serve as an example to the other participants. At no time has either man lost his temper, at no point in their discussion has there been exhibited that back-biting technique so often employed by the Member who addresses himself not to the issue before the House but to his constituents back home.

The former Minister of National Defence and his successor are equally concerned to get reinforcements to the Canadians overseas. That common interest enabled them to rise above the pettiness with which the debate has been surrounded. And despite their

differences of opinion, General McNaughton seized an opportunity to pay high tribute to the efficiency of the departmental organization Colonel Ralston developed.

The new Minister was clarifying for the House the decision to send 16,000 reinforcements overseas in addition to troops already arranged for.

"I called the staff in the Department together yesterday morning before I came up to make this announcement here," General McNaughton said. "I met those officers this morning and their proposition was completely worked out as regards the selection and dispatch of the first 10,000, namely, those to go in December and January. Knowing, as the honourable Member does, the tremendous amount of detail which is required in working out a movement of that sort, I create a wonderful feeling of confidence on the part of the Minister who, after giving a general order of the kind, can go back the following morning and find that the thing is complete and is placed before him so that he has merely to say 'Yes, that is satisfactory'."

Colonel Ralston: "That is what some people call 'military red tape'."

General McNaughton: "It is an amazing tribute to the organization you led me, Colonel Ralston."

Such an exchange in Parliament is a debate on the high level of public

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1944

A NATION'S HEALTH IS A NATION'S WEALTH

WILLING OR NOT?

THE demonstrations by Home Defence troops in British Columbia will become men who until now have refused to do their duty as citizens. These exhibitions, however, do serve to clarify for the Canadian public one issue upon which there has been much debate.

It has been widely assumed that only men of French origin oppose compulsory

sory service, but it is clear now from British Columbia accounts that many of the demonstrators were not French-Canadians. Those for example, who shouted, "Conscript wealth as well as men," were repeating a C.C.F. slogan. Anyone who knows the French-Canadian and his attitude toward compulsory service will know that men using this slogan were not of that race.

We have the further testimony of the Pacific Command on this question. It stated: "Troops taking part in the parades were not confined to any one nationality, but comprised a cross-section of all Canadian provinces." That is conclusive.

In a peculiarly worded section of the same statement, the Pacific Command declares: "It appeared from their slogans—shouted as they marched—that the demonstrators were protesting what they termed a 'phony conscription' and expressing their disapproval of a form of compulsion which they considered discriminatory." The Officer Commanding, in his next paragraph, appeals to all ranks under his command to refrain from any acts of an unsoldierly nature. It may quite properly be asked whether, by inserting such an interpretative paragraph in his announcement, the Officer Commanding was not himself guilty of a breach of his own regulations.

As to the merits of the troops' complaint there need be little controversy. Only a few days ago the country was assured by a number of unit commanding officers that these men would not volunteer but would willingly go if ordered. Either these commanding officers were not fully informed about the feelings of their men, or they injected into the public discussion of the issue a statement calculated to influence the Government's action, a proceeding well outside their duty as soldiers.

EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH OF PRIME MINISTER KING

King Tells House If Strong Party

Points from Graydon's Speech

Ottawa, November 27.—(C)—Following are excerpts from Prime Minister Mackenzie King's three-hour speech to the Commons today.

On Conscription Background:

When I asked this House to enter the war honorable members were all, I think, of one mind with respect to one of the conditions under which we would be prepared to take part in the conflict. It was that there would be no conscription for the sending of men overseas.

When that appeal (the 1940 election) was made members of all parties appeared before the public and stated, I think for the most part, what their position would be with regard to conscription. At any rate, members of the administration took the position that there should not be conscription for service overseas, and we took that position not because of any statute but because most of us, if indeed not all of us, had a moral obligation which we appreciated very deeply. We had given our word, no one more strongly than myself, speaking before the war broke out, that if war came the country would not resort to conscription for service overseas.

The government was returned by a very large majority. It had its mandate to carry on the war to carry it on without resort to conscription.

I had my colleagues join in presenting to the people (following the fall of France and "fresh agitation for conscription") a plebiscite which would enable us to be free from any moral obligation that had been given up to that time.

I have never been able to understand why honorable members should since have maintained, as some of them have maintained—not many but some of them—and the great organizations throughout the country, even an organization such as the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League, that there was, as a result of that plebiscite, a mandate on the part of the country to the government to carry out conscription.

That is an entire falsification of the interpretation of the plebiscite.

Bill 80 was brought into the House (in 1942) in order to make it perfectly clear that the government would have thereafter the right to take such steps and actions with respect to conscription as it might be necessary to take, either conscription in whole or conscription to a limited extent. That bill recognized the principle of conscription.

On Col. Ralston's Views:

Col. Ralston, the former Minister of National Defence, for a long time has believed that it might be necessary to resort to conscription for service overseas.

When this question did come up he and I were determined that it should not become a King-Ralston conflict or battle, as I have seen it described in the press.

To the extent that each has stood for a certain point of view we have been standing for the points of view that we know are held in this country at the present time.

That afternoon (October 18, the day of Col. Ralston's return from overseas) we had a conference in my office at which the minister (Col. Ralston) told me that he had come to the conclusion that unless men could be secured very quickly by the voluntary method it would be necessary to take advantage of Bill 80 to send men across under compulsion.

The minister assured us that this situation which might become critical would not arise until the new year.

I want that to be clearly understood so that honorable members of the country will realize that while the House and people throughout the government has been giving matter all the mature consideration that its great importance and grave that its significance necessitated, we have been running no risks so far as our fighting men overseas are concerned.

Ottawa, November 27.—(C)—Following are excerpts from the speech of Gordon Graydon, Progressive Conservative House leader, in the Commons tonight:

This crisis, which is of course the reinforcement crisis, is one which the government itself could have met and solved had it taken the courage to do so without allowing it to reach the proportions that it has done or disturbing and distressing our people.

Let us not forget that our enemies in this war do not happen to be Canadians; our enemies are the cruel aggressor nations of Germany and Japan, and let us conduct this debate with that thought definitely and properly in our minds.

The public want us to do a job in this parliament and they are not going to be satisfied with a half-finished job. They do not want any more cabinet trouble. They do not want any more delays in providing help for our hard-pressed troops overseas.

If we leave this parliament with just that order (the order-in-council providing authority for overseas conscription of 16,000), restricted as it is for 16,000 troops for reinforcements from the N.R.M.A., I do not think we shall have completed the job.

When we leave this parliament with an order-in-council such as we have now, which the Prime Minister says covers all these men but which does not dispatch or direct them, then we are running ourselves right into a headwind again and it is quite possible and indeed probable that we shall have more cabinet crises for this nation to take care of in the future, as we have had in the past.

The present government surrenders to a partial policy of overseas compulsory service which some have labelled in the newspapers controlled conscription.

When this order-in-council is compared with the Kiska order-in-council (that authorizing the sending of Home Defence forces to Kiska) we find that this government has for some reason or other definitely pulled its punches and we are opposed to the pulling of punches in this last phase of our struggle in this war.

No single bold step has been taken with respect to this matter at any time. It has been a government retreat from trench to trench.

When this war is over or when action in the Pacific arena gets underway are those Canadians now serving in the European field of conflict to be asked to go to fight in the Pacific while men drafted under the N.R.M.A. remain in Canada?

I do not think the Prime Minister should use the House of Commons for a sounding board for another election cry—"King or Anarchy in Canada."

I want to make it clear and plain—so plain that it cannot be misunderstood—that we in this party have been ready and willing to co-operate with the government in every possible way relative to the war effort.

But may I say that our great difficulty has been that the government has not gone far enough in the direction of total war.

I think the underlying reason for the lack of confidence in the administration of the Prime Minister is that he has not his heart in the legislation which has just been passed by the order-in-council. It seems to me that he has lost the confidence of the House at this time.

On the Cabinet View:

It (the need for reinforcements) came along on the very eve of victory.

Do honorable members wonder that there was a difference of view in the Cabinet at the time as to what was the best method to adopt? Let me say this, that the Cabinet was quite prepared, once the facts had been laid before it by the minister, to accept the view that there was need for additional men being sent across.

The difference that arose was one of method, whether to supply the additional numbers of men to reinforce the armies overseas we should abandon the volunteer enlistment method and take Bill 80 in its entirety and go out for full conscription under that measure, or continue the existing system. The question was which of the two methods was preferable or was there some way of meeting the situation other than resorting to one extreme or the other.

I ask this House if it can conceive of any obligation that a ministry ever had placed upon it which was more onerous than the obligation to find some solution of this problem. Short of a complete break-up of the government itself at a time of war.

As I speak I want honorable members to realize this, that new situations were being created within Canada which were very unsettling. A measure of unrest was being organized the like of which has not been seen in the history of Canada before, not even in a political campaign. One may condemn the movement, the day will come when it will be exposed and will be fully condemned. But in a ministry, unfortunately, one cannot escape the responsibility that goes with meeting every situation that arises, and a new condition of affairs has arisen in this country as a result of that organized propaganda for conscription in Canada. A new condition and a very serious condition has arisen and it was one with which the government had to deal.

I want honorable members in judging the actions of administration to keep clearly in their mind what it was that we had to take account of. In speaking of what we might have to do if we had to act under Bill 80 I used in this House the words that the government would only act under that measure when it deemed it was necessary and, I added, advisable. Those two words carry great weight—necessary with regard to what was essential to the maintenance of our forces overseas, and advisable in the light of conditions not only in Europe but right in Canada at this time and what might be the consequences if we acted in a particular way.

On the Cabinet Crisis:

The members of the Cabinet who felt that resort to conscription at this stage was not necessary naturally backed up that point of view by drawing attention to the five years of success that we have had under the voluntary system and to the fact that the war was obviously drawing near to a close, calling attention to statements that had been made by the Prime Minister of Britain that we were on the last lap of the war and statements made by other leaders as to what they believed would be the further duration of the war.

I should perhaps make clear that it was about this time that Mr. Churchill added to what he had previously said that the war might take very much longer to finish than was anticipated. That again had its bearing on the discussions. What seemed hardest to understand was how, after all that had been done and were doing to make Canada's effort a total effort, we should suddenly have to either accept or reject this obligation of sending additional men overseas under conscription with all that that was certain to mean.

We felt very strongly that nothing had been denied the Army from the beginning of the war up to that time which they had requested as necessary for fighting overseas.

I can say this, and I am proud to say it. While I am not a military man I have relied with absolute confidence on the exceedingly able men of military experience whom I have had around me in the Departments of Defence, and when they have come forward, while I have questioned time and again whether we might not be going a little too far, I have always had the assur-

Ottawa, November 27.—(C)—Prime Minister Mackenzie King said today in the Commons that he will resign unless he gets sufficient support from his own party on a vote of confidence in the government.

Mr. King said that he would not carry on with a low majority.

Mr. King said he would resign unless he got sufficient support from his own party. He would not carry on if he felt he did not have the support of the large majority of his own party.

Mr. King said he would not resign to carry on "one moment" if the government had not the confidence of the House of Commons.

Responsibility for deciding whether the government carried on or not rested on the members of the House. "Furthermore," said Mr. King, "I am not going to attempt to carry on alone with the support of groups opposite. If I don't have sufficient group of my own party on which I can rely I will not carry on."

Turning to his cabinet colleagues he said he would gladly step aside for any of them if the House had greater confidence in him (cabinet colleague) than in himself (Mr. King).

"Call in Bracken," (John Bracken, national Progressive Conservative leader) said a Progressive Conservative.

Mr. King said Mr. Bracken was not a member of the House and the main purpose was to get help to the men overseas at once. He doubted if that purpose would be furthered by proposing Mr. Bracken's name to the Governor-General.

"McNaughton (Defence Minister) is not a member of the House," said Hon. W. Earl Rowe (P.C., Dufferin-Simcoe).

Mr. King went on to ask Gordon Graydon, Progressive Conservative House leader, M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, and John Bach to consider whether they would be ready to form a government if called upon to do so some time this week.

Mr. King said he had never sought to please one province rather than another in regard to the question of the Army being too large or the manpower problem coming to be a serious one later on. I along with the rest of my colleagues have accepted these representations in the light of faith, just as they were given, and in the best of faith.

I had to think of what effect the taking of a step such as we are proposing to take at this moment might have on the future solution of this country in relation to the solution of its own problems and in relation to its relations with other countries other parts of the British Empire and other parts of the world.

I have had to ask myself the question, what is going to be the effect on the efforts that are being put forward by Prime Minister Churchill, by President Roosevelt, by Marshal Stalin, and the lesser powers, to bring about that form of world organization which will keep the peace of the world, if our country Canada, which has played the great part that we have played in this war, becomes divided, becomes an example to the rest of the world of what the result of division?

Our voice is not going to be a voice that will carry with it weight and the influence which was hoped until a very short time ago it would almost certainly have in the solution of these questions. So that this matter had to be considered in its bearing upon the national problems as well as the problems of Canadian people.

We had reached the point where we were agreed at least that we would make a further appeal to the voluntary method for men overseas. But the point on which we could not get final agreement was whether, before we began the appeal, we should fix a date by which the numbers would be supplied, and make that known, or keep it secret to ourselves.

May I say that any appeal begins with a confession of failure as to its success is never likely to succeed. If we had been able to advertise to those whom we were seeking to have come in of our own accord the fact that if they did not come within a certain time they would be conscripted, anyone would think that we were got a volunteer as a result of the appeal?

Points of Coldwell Speech

Ottawa, November 27.—(C)—Following are excerpts from the speech of M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, in the Commons tonight:

In our opinion the issue before parliament is reinforcements, not conscription.

The government has not used the wide powers conferred upon them by the Act (the National Resources Mobilization Act) to impose a total war effort by conscripting the financial institutions, the war industries and accumulated wealth.

Total war at least would have demanded that a thorough inventory should have been taken long ago of all our resources. We should have decided the best contribution that this country could make and then decide what manpower we would need to expand our agricultural and industrial activities and to maintain an army, navy and air force at proper strength in the theatres of war. This was never done.

The public examination of Gen. McNaughton convinced me that reinforcements are needed and that for various reasons. The voluntary system of raising reinforcements for our forces overseas is inadequate. Let us be clear about it. All parties represented in this House repudiated in 1940 the policy of conscription for overseas service—all parties. There were no exceptions.

From the discussion last week we cannot accept the order-in-council as a sound or proper policy to meet the needs of the armed forces.

To my mind it looks less than adequate and certainly it is not statesmanlike in this grave hour. If

it is done to placate the anti-conscriptionist followers of the government it fails miserably; and if it is done to assure our armies of vigorous support in the war effort it fails equally.

The government's policy is bad because it discriminates between men who have been called to serve under the same law and under the same conditions. This will cause endless confusion now and, in my opinion, grave difficulties in the future. Since reinforcements can only be obtained in one way why not place all the men on the same footing?

So far no adequate steps have been taken to ensure a total war effort, nor has this parliament made adequate re-establishment proposals involving plans for full employment when the war ends.

Throughout the war fear of post-war conditions was interfered with recruiting and the government has neither plan nor policy to remove or even to mitigate to a sufficient extent this fear. Now, then, can this House expect the government to maintain a vigorous war effort when its proposals fall far short of obvious requirements?

As to the official opposition as the alternative to the government, may I say that their own irresponsibility during this controversy and this debate makes it impossible for this House or the country to place any confidence in their intentions or ability. Personally I think theirs has been a really shocking display of political manoeuvring.

King or Anarchy' Alternatives Of Graydon and Coldwell Ask Full C Power Implies Eisenhower Policie

DEFENDS HIS STAND

Former Air Minister Criticizes
War Plans in Commons

OPPOSES CONSCRIPTION

Sees No Need for Canadians
Being in Battle All
the Time

(Special to The Gazette.)

Ottawa, November 27.—Hon. C. G. Power, in a defence of his opposition to conscription in the House of Commons this afternoon, implied that the military policy of Gen. Eisenhower, supreme Allied commander on the western front, led to heavy casualties. Had there not been these heavy casualties, the resigned Air Minister said, the voluntary system of recruiting would have sufficed.

Mr. Power spoke after Prime Minister King had announced acceptance of the air minister's resignation with regret, and had tabled correspondence between them.

Partial text of Mr. Power's statement:

... The strategy of Gen. Eisenhower ... is to strike the enemy again and again, and to give him no rest and no respite.

We are informed that in order to carry out this Eisenhower plan of war reinforcements must be available and at hand to refill battalions and units within 24 hours after the casualties occur.

I think I should draw to the attention of the House, and to the thousands of mothers, wives, sweethearts and dependents of those now in the front line that this repeated return to battle instead of making for less casualties among their loved ones, might very easily make for more. No commander will take his experienced men out of the unit and undertake an engagement with only the newly-arrived however well trained they may be.

It seems to me that the logical thing, the reasonable thing is to take the men out of the line temporarily to rest, to reequip, to rest, to recuperate and to refill their ranks.

Neither ultimate victory nor national honor require that Canadian troops should be in action every hour or every day, or even should take part in every battle necessary to bring about final victory, especially when thousands of Europeans fresh freed from the tyranny and the unspeakable terror of Nazi occupiers are panting for vengeance on the oppressor....

It has been stated that casualties amongst the troops of some of our Allies are greater than ours. To that I say, surely this war is something more than a competition in casualties amongst the United Nations....

In the course of systematic recuperation were taken then the voluntary system which we have been following, which yielded more men last year than was ever estimated or even anticipated, which in the words of the present Minister of National Defence has not failed, would have sufficed at this stage of the war when by the most authoritative accounts victory is certain.

I gave to Col. Ralston's report my most sincere and conscientious consideration.

I remained with the government and held firm to the policy to which I clearly understood it to be unreservedly committed. It was the policy on Wednesday morning last. It was the policy until Wednesday

night. I could not change my matured decision in a matter of minutes.

Conscription, Mr. Speaker, may be justified in moments of national crisis and in defence of one's country, and in the discussion of bill 80 in 1942 I said so. It might have been justified at certain periods and phases of this war when we were on the brink of almost certain defeat. It might have been justified if D-Day (June 6) had been a smashing catastrophe instead of a brilliant success. But those days are now past. We have no right to tear this country asunder at this stage, and in this state of the war.

A word as to the consequences of this controversy.

The most tragic thing of all is the weakening of faith and confidence in public men, not only by the people of one province but in all provinces, not only amongst those who hold one view, but in men and women on all sides of this unfortunate debate....

It may be that for some time to come the day has gone when men of similar ideas and principles can meet and join in common action across the Ottawa river.

My hope, my prayer is that there will be no such outcome and that with the advent of external victory and peace, peace and understanding may come within our own country.

Mr. Power took the seat formerly occupied by J. F. Pouliot, Liberal member for Temiscouata who crossed the floor last week. He received a round of applause as he entered the House.

Mr. King said he had been unable to persuade Maj. Power to reconsider his resignation, tendered last week.

He expressed deep regret at the departure of "so trusted a colleague" from the government and paid high tribute to Maj. Power's services.

MESS RESIGNS RECRUITING JOB

Brigadier Back From Tour of
Front, Refuses Comment

(Special to The Gazette.)

Ottawa, November 27. — Brig. James Mess, director of recruiting for the Canadian Army since August, 1941, has resigned, it was learned tonight.

Known to be a firm believer in conscription, Brig. Mess arrived back Wednesday night from a tour of England and the western front. Interviewed as he stepped from the T.C.A. plane after what was called a "hurried flight on orders from Ottawa," Brig. Mess refused to comment on the reinforcement or conscription issues until he had talked with Defence Minister McNaughton. Since that time he has made no public statement.

A native of Dundee, Scotland, a veteran of the Canadian forces in the last war and a mechanical engineer in civil life, Brig. Mess has been in Canada since 1910.

He was appointed civilian director of recruiting in the fall of 1941 and a year later was appointed deputy adjutant general in a civilian capacity. Retaining the same post, he was appointed to the military rank of brigadier in February, 1941, and given control of recruiting, auxiliary service, special services and Army education.

On arriving back from overseas he would not say that he was making a review of the reinforcement situation but said he was making a survey of all phases of work under his control on the other side.

Widely connected in Canadian industrial circles between the two wars, Brig. Mess was in 1939, prior to accepting his late post, president and general manager of Dominion Flow Meter Co. Ltd., Toronto; pre-

sident and general manager of Diesel Power Limited, representatives of Diesel Engine Manufacturers and Whiting Corporation (Canada) Ltd.; and general manager Niagara Screens and Machines Ltd. His wife, the former Kathleen Frances Osler, a relative of the renowned Sir William Osler has lived with her husband in Ottawa while he was connected with N.D.-H.Q. In peacetime they made their home in Toronto.

In the Great War he rose to the rank of major in command of the 10th Canadian Machine Gun Corps. He was later posted to command the Canadian Machine Gun Depot in England until in 1918, when he was given command of the Machine Gun Corps of Canada.

From the close of the last war until he was again appointed to a commission in this war, he maintained a keen interest in the Canadian nonpermanent militia.

Brig. Mess, asked at Ottawa yesterday about a report that he had resigned his post as director of recruiting, said he had no knowledge of any such story, no one had mentioned it to him and he knew nothing about it. He had no comment to make on the report.

2 LIBERALS TO BOLT

Picard and Tremblay to Vote
Against King Resolution

St. Raphael, Que., November 27. —(P) Philippe Picard, Liberal member of Parliament for Bellechasse, told a political meeting here last night that he would vote against the government on the conscription issue, but that he still would consider himself a Liberal.

St. Malachie, November 27.—(P) Leonard Tremblay, Liberal member of Parliament for Dorchester, told a political meeting here last night that "I will vote against conscription for overseas even if my vote and those of other Liberals result in the fall of Mackenzie King."

Offered by Premier; Conscription at Once; ies Led to Heavy Losses

Use All Manpower, Asks Graydon; Conscript Wealth Too: Coldwell

(By Gazette Staff Writer)

Ottawa, November 27. — Gordon Graydon, leader of the Progressive Conservative opposition in the House tonight accused the government of pulling its punches in its manpower conscription order and called for further moves toward total war. He moved an amendment to Prime Minister Mackenzie King's motion of confidence, charging the government with failing to make certain of adequate and continuous trained reinforcements.

"So far as we are concerned, the policy of the government does not go far enough in the direction of total war," he said. "I believe that the present policy is confusing and that the whole nation has great difficulty in understanding the purpose and the language of the order-in-council. I believe at least the public will be glad, if I may say so without offence that the Prime Minister seems finally to have come to rest. But the lightning changes to the government policy make it difficult for the people to keep abreast.

"It must be difficult for Gen. McNaughton to keep abreast of the changes that have been initiated because in the shuffle the government has lost two valuable ministers within one month and both of opposite reasons of policy. No single bold step has been taken with respect to this matter at any time. It has been a government reeling from trench to trench. In military aid we went the whole hog

but on a more important issue we have gone only step by step.

"It seems to me," Mr. Graydon continued, "that this nation has not waged what one could call total war despite what the Prime Minister suggested this afternoon, and this order-in-council does not completely cure the ceiling of pressure on 16,000 men in the home defence army in the hope that some cabinet minister will be able to go into his riding and say that these have volunteered. It amounts to conscription through pressure, or as some have already said in this House, compulsion by coercion."

SOUNDS LIKE APOLOGY

Too much of the Prime Minister's speech, said Mr. Graydon, sounded more like an apology than a vigorous expression of government policy. He declared his belief that the conscription order should consist of the same clear-cut terms as ordered N.R.M.A. forces into Kiska.

"It seems to me that in this legislation," he said, "the government for some reason or other has pulled its punches and we for one are opposed to the governments' pulling its punches on this issue and at this stage of the war." He declared the conscription order to be piecemeal in its conception and application.

"Where were you in 1940?" cried William Fraser (Liberal, Northumberland) at this point. "It was the first of a series of interruptions which led Mr. Graydon to appeal for a fair hearing. The Speaker interposed to ask for order. Liberal colleagues seated near Mr. Fraser were observed to be trying to quiet

The leader of the opposition chided the administration for not stepping out boldly toward compulsion. "I don't like to hear too much stress of minimum reinforcements and not enough stress on maximum," he said.

He added that the government has not settled the question being asked by every man overseas: Are volunteers going to be asked to go to the Pacific while drafted men are going to remain in Canada? "I think the government owes that answer to the fighting men overseas," he declared.

Mr. Graydon noted that the Prime Minister's motion introduced the topic of a vigorous war effort and did not ask the House for a complete expression of confidence on all the government's war policies.

"But so far as the opposition is concerned the policy of the government does not go far enough in the way of total war," he said, adding that the course the Prime Minister had steered was of a nature to have forfeited the confidence of parliament and people. He laid particular stress on the fact that the confidence motion was placed on the record while the government on Wednesday adhered to the voluntary plan which was abandoned on Thursday in favor of compulsion.

WANT TOTAL WAR

"This opposition is prepared at all times," he continued, "to give to this government or to any gov-

ernment that may have the direction of affairs in this Parliament the cooperation and help to which it is entitled in order to carry on the war. But may I say to you that our great difficulty has been that our government has not gone far enough in the direction of total war. Our criticism has been directed largely in that direction and it will continue to be directed in that direction.

"We want total war, but we have not been getting it from this government. I think the underlying reason for the lack of confidence in the administration of the Prime Minister is that he has not his heart in the legislation which has just been passed by the order-in-council. It seems to me that he has lost the confidence of the House at this time.

"I intend at this stage to move an amendment to the motion of confidence moved by the Prime Minister. The motion is seconded by the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) and reads: 'This House is of the opinion that the government has not made certain of adequate and continuous trained reinforcements by requiring all N.R.M.A. personnel whether now or hereafter enrolled to serve in or hereafter to serve in and has failed to assure equality of service and sacrifice.'

APPEALS TO QUEBEC

King Says Unity of Canada Depends on Outcome of Crisis

STATEMENT TO HOUSE

He Reveals Ralston Refused to Succeed Him; Secret Session Planned Today

Leaders' speeches, page 18.

By F. C. MEARS

(Gazette Resident Correspondent.)
Ottawa, November 27. — King or anarchy were the stark alternatives presented by Prime Minister Mackenzie King to Parliament and people in his three-hour speech to Commons today.

"It won't help our army to defeat the present government," declared the Prime Minister near the end of his speech and after he had disclaimed any attempt to influence the views of any member on the confidence motion before the House.

At another stage Mr. King said he would be a very happy man if he could be relieved of the steadily increasing responsibilities of Prime Minister but then warned Parliament that before it considered upsetting the present administration it must think about whether another and effective government could be set up in its place.

Mr. King, in a passage evidently meant for his wavering Liberal supporters, threatened to resign if he did not obtain "sufficient" support from them.

"If I don't have a sufficient support of my own party on which I can rely I will not carry on," he said.

Again, early in his recital of the various steps in the two crises through which the cabinet had recently passed, Mr. King scolded Col. J. L. Ralston for having in his press statement of November 12 disclosed cabinet secrets, then the Prime Minister told the House that during these crises he (the Prime Minister) asked various colleagues, in turn if they would take on the responsibility of leadership should he resign.

SECRET SESSION TODAY

Commoners will sit behind closed doors tomorrow afternoon to get from Gen. McNaughton, new Defence Minister, the answers to questions asked him last week and to elicit from him any additional information if desired by members.

This surprise move came late tonight after the last of the party leaders, John Blackmore of the New Democracy party, had concluded his speech. Mr. King rose to say that tomorrow afternoon the doors would not be opened to the public after prayers and that the members would sit in secret session to again hear Gen. McNaughton. He did not think this meeting in camera need be prolonged.

Mr. Blackmore, talked mostly about monetary policy, about what has come out of the Bretton Woods monetary parity and out of the Dumbarton Oaks conference. He charged that the international monetary pact threatened to destroy Canada's sovereignty, but he failed to state specifically what stand he took on the Prime Minister's confidence motion.

Capl. J. A. Johnston, Liberal member for London, Ont., will resume the debate after tomorrow's secret sitting, and some time tomorrow, probably in the evening the House will hear from Col. J. L. Ralston. The debate will certainly occupy the remainder of this week.

Mr. King came nearly admitting in the middle of his speech that the force of public opinion had driven him to seek a compromise plan that would avert dissolution when he blamed "organized propaganda" for conscription for the failure of the latest pleas of himself and of Gen. McNaughton to get sufficient volunteers to meet the infantry need overseas. He also charged that leaders of groups opposed in the House failed to cooperate in these appeals.

Denying he had any fear of the purely political consequences of dissolution at the time of Col. Ralston's displacement by Gen. Mc-

Naughton, Mr. King declared, amid Liberal applause, "had I appealed to the people after Col. Ralston's resignation from the cabinet I could have swept Quebec, I could have carried seats from one end of this country to the other, as a result of an appeal to the people in circumstances such as these. But would that have helped the men overseas?"

"We would have been faced," said Premier King, "with two months or more of bitter controversy, fierce political warfare, if an election had been held at this time. Can you imagine anything more cruel? Not one of my colleagues was prepared to take over the duties of guiding the government."

Mr. King contended that his resignation as Prime Minister and the dissolution of Parliament were inseparable because, he said, there was no one in sight whom he could advise the Governor General to call upon to form a government.

"This government," declared Mr. King, "has successfully surmounted two crises. What this House will decide in the vote on my motion of confidence is whether or not there is to be another crisis. What we are trying to do here is to help the men overseas. I have never failed to give our gallant men overseas the fullest support, and I am not going to fail them today."

MOTION OF CONFIDENCE

Mr. King's motion is as follows: "That this House will aid the government in its policy of maintaining a vigorous war effort." He said near the end of his speech that the issue of conscription was not involved in a vote on this motion, but whether or not this government should be continued in its conduct of the nation's war effort.

"In destroying this government you will have to consider who is to succeed it," said the Prime Minister. Many members of any new government, he said, would necessarily be men new to Parliament and without much if any experience in the administration of war policies. Further, any change of government would involve great dislocation in the management of the nation's affairs at a critical stage of the war.

The intense interest of the public in this week's doings in Parliament was shown in the galleries whose seats were filled and where hundreds also stood throughout the afternoon sitting, and hundreds were in line outside and never got near the doors. Throughout the sittings Gen. McNaughton, new Defence Minister, occupied a seat in the distinguished visitors' gallery.

At the gravity of the present situation, told of his own troubles in maintaining a total war effort and at the same time trying to keep the nation united, reviewed the many steps taken to keep the military manpower supply up to the demands, recounted the reasons for the 1940 general election, the plebiscite, the introduction and debate on Bill 80, and finally, the developments of the past three months.

"There never was any question," said Mr. King, of the legal power of this government to adopt conscription but there was a very strong moral obligation not to take the 'step,' and he added that as between the question of legal power and that of respecting a moral obligation he would always respect the latter.

"That plebiscite was overwhelmingly carried by the people of Canada," said the Prime Minister, "but I could never understand why people could not see, here or outside, that it was not a mandate to entire falsification of the interpretation of the plebiscite's meaning. It was simply to release the government from a moral obligation." He regretted that in many places conscription was looked upon as a symbol of a total war effort.

King said there was nothing before the cabinet until August this year. The suggestion there would be need for greatly increased reinforcements overseas, even through Col. Ralston had more than once suggested the possibility of such a situation.

OPPOSING VIEWS

Col. Ralston at no time up to August, said Mr. King, submitted to the cabinet any recommendation, either expressed or implied, for the adoption of conscription for overseas service, "but when the question finally came before the cabinet he (Col. Ralston) and I were determined it should not be a King-Ralston battle as have been seen it described in the press. It was simply the meeting of two opposing points of view, a conflict of view on this subject that had existed ever since the South African war. In all the discussions there was nothing personal."

Mr. King said Col. Ralston had assured his colleagues that the critical situation he was anticipating would not develop before the beginning of 1945, and, said the Prime Minister, "I want the people of Canada to realize that while the government was giving the question the most careful consideration there was no immediate peril to the troops overseas."

After reviewing the main arguments presented by both sides in the cabinet during the critical days, Mr. King said, "I was being told each day that unless we got a settlement the Minister of National Defence would resign."

Here Mr. King regretted that Air Minister C. G. Power, whose resignation he accepted today, was not by his side during the cabinet debates due to illness.

"There was the possibility of other resignations," said the Prime Minister. If Col. Ralston left, others might feel they had to go also, and, he said, "I had to think where would the country be if one minister after another, members of the War Cabinet, were to leave."

It was at this time Mr. King said he decided to seek help elsewhere, and he consulted Gen. McNaughton who assured him he felt the necessary reinforcements by the voluntary method could be raised by another public appeal. He said he knew nothing of Gen. McNaughton's politics but he felt that, the Prime Minister, owed it to the country to make another desperate attempt to find a solution short of dissolution.

"When I told the cabinet Gen. McNaughton was ready to assume the task of raising sufficient troops by the voluntary method," said Mr. King. "Col. Ralston said that if that was the situation there was nothing left for him to do but resign."

OFFERED TO RESIGN

That was crisis No. 1, said the Prime Minister, and he thought he had successfully passed it by calling

ing in Gen. McNaughton, "who brought confidence to the people." He said he had taken great care to ask one minister after another if he were ready to assume the responsibility of leadership should be himself decide to resign but none offered to do so.

"Unless men are ready to back up their position by being ready to accept the responsibility of putting such a position or policy into force they have no right to endanger the whole situation," said the Prime Minister. All this was said relative to the position created by the resignation of Col. Ralston.

Mr. King, in the latter part of his speech, made much of the argument he didn't think anyone opposite was capable of forming an effective government and he closed his three-hour speech by making first a bid for the support of the Quebec members and then by telling the House he had never in any of his war moves sought to appease the people of that province.

Mr. King concluded by reading to the House from speeches of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Lapointe and, finally, by quoting from Sir Wilfrid's declaration of his efforts to help maintain national unity. Mr. King dramatically applied these words to himself. He spoke nearly half an hour over the six o'clock dinner adjournment hour and the House did not reconvene until 8:30, when the opposition leader, Gordon Graydon, opened the debate.

EXPLAINS MOTION

"The motion does not ask for approval of the order in council calling for conscription to raise a maximum of 16,000 men from N.R.M.A. personnel," said Mr. King. "The motion does not ask for an unlimited vote of confidence in the government," said Mr. King. "To do so would be unfair to political opponents of the government who nevertheless are willing to aid the government in the vigorous prosecution of the war."

"The motion is not to be construed as an endorsement of government policies generally," said the Prime Minister. "The motion does ask and asks only whether members are prepared to support the government in continuing to carry on Canada's war effort at this time."

Mr. King, earlier in his speech, outlined the scope of the order in council passed last Thursday morning. It applied, he said, to the entire N.R.M.A. personnel and it authorized the defence minister to dispatch overseas a maximum of 16,000 N.R.M.A. personnel. He said that in calculating the number of N.R.M.A. personnel so dispatched men would be counted as N.R.M.A. personnel only if they had embarked without converting to general service. All N.R.M.A. personnel who converted to general service before embarkation would be excluded from this 16,000.

"I have been told time and again," said Mr. King, in referring to his relations with his Quebec followers, "that in my political actions I have been seeking to appease the province of Quebec. I have never, in any act of mine in this Parliament, sought to take one step to please one particular province rather than another. Any step I have taken in any public act I have performed has been taken in the best interests of Canada as a whole, not in the interests of any particular province."

WANTS QUEBEC UNDERSTOOD

"It is true," the Prime Minister continued, "that to the best of my limited abilities I have sought to have the people of Canada understand the province of Quebec. I have not reminded them very often, but I should like to remind them now of the fact that if it had not been for the French-Canadian people this Canada of ours would not be a part of the British Empire today."

"If the French-speaking people of Canada had taken the same stand that was taken by the English-speaking people of the 13 colonies," said Mr. King, "at the time of the American War of Independence and had joined them in declaring independence there would have been no Canada under the British flag today. That is something that is worth while for the rest of the people of Canada to remember."

"More than that," said Mr. King, "if the French-speaking people of Canada had not successfully opposed, with force, the armed forces that came against Canada at that time this country would not be under the British crown today. And may I go a step further and remind this House that not only at that time was Canada saved to the British Crown? In the war of 1812 when forces from the country to the south invaded Canada again the French-speaking people shouldered their rifles, went out and met the

enemy and defeated him, and saved this country to the British crown."

"So I say," declared Mr. King, "something is owing on the part of the other provinces to the Province of Quebec. Something is owing to them on the score of chivalry, a people who have been in this country for 300 years or more, who were settled here for 150 years before any number of British settlers came to the Dominion. Something is owing to these people for the way in which they have played their part ever since in connection with the Dominion as a whole."

"I have sought to defend the men and women of Quebec," said the Prime Minister, "from the ruthless and often brutal attacks made upon them by people from other parts of the country who ought to have known much better."

It wasn't conscription the French-Canadians feared, said Mr. King. They had submitted to conscription already under the N.R.M.A., he said, and they had accepted that situation. They had been obeying it but they looked upon conscription as a symbol of domination by a majority. They were French-speaking and, while, on the Roman Catholic faith, while those the other hand, they saw that those who were asking for conscription were mostly Protestant and English-speaking. Then Mr. King recited steps he had taken in the last two years that could be regarded as appeasing Quebec, such as the N.R.M.A. and recent moves.

TROOPS IN B.C. STAGE SITDOWN

Draftees Reported Demonstrating With Rifles at Terrace

Vancouver, November 27. — (C) — A dispatch reaching Vancouver tonight from Prince Rupert, northern British Columbia coast town, said that soldiers carrying rifles were demonstrating south of Terrace village, where draftees of three regiments are staging a "sit-down" strike while they await a reply from Army Headquarters at Ottawa to a demand that they be returned to their homes in Quebec.

The report came from the Prince Rupert Daily News correspondent at Terrace. He said that shouting was heard south of the village.

No violence or damage was reported.

English-speaking units from Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island and French-speaking regiment from Quebec are known to be stationed at Terrace.

Pacific Command reported earlier that "some dissatisfaction still exists in a French-Canadian unit stationed at Terrace," and reports from the town said the men were performing only routine camp duties.

The statement said the men had committed no further acts of violence and had remained in their lines "in an orderly manner."

Terrace is the scene of the largest of a half-dozen anti-conscription demonstrations staged in the province during the week-end. Approximately 1,000 men paraded in orderly fashion in protest against last week's decision by the Dominion Government to authorize the dispatch of 16,000 home defence troops overseas.

Terrace is about 450 airline miles north of Vancouver and about 80 airline miles east of Prince Rupert.

Meanwhile, Pacific Command inquiries will be made into anti-conscription demonstrations held at six British Columbia centres since Friday.

The only recurrence earlier today of parading was reported from Prince George, where about 500 men marched through snow-covered streets for less than an hour carrying anti-conscription placards and shouting slogans.

Demonstrations since Friday at Vernon, Chilliwack, Nanaimo, Courtenay, Prince George and Terrace will be fully investigated separately, Pacific Command announced.

Passes at all camps are being issued as usual and only those directly involved in disturbances have been confined to barracks.

"Normal parades were carried out in all camps except Terrace," said Gen. Peakes. "Behavior of other French-Canadian units in Pacific Command has been good. They have refused to join in demonstrations."

At Vernon, in the Okanagan Valley where demonstration parades started last Friday, all was quiet today, but senior officers said they were prepared to deal quickly with any renewed outbreak.

An officer spokesman said today every effort will be made to pave the way to peace in the camp, which holds approximately one-third of the sixth infantry division, by impressing on the men and civilians as well that the word "Zombie" is not longer applicable to home defence soldiers. Under the government's new policy many of these men will soon serve alongside general service volunteers.

Conscription Protest Put on Quebec Agenda

Quebec, November 27. — (C) — Rene Chaloult, national member of the Quebec legislature, told the Quebec County has asked the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to inscribe on the agenda of the legislative assembly for its first meeting a motion protesting against conscription for overseas, it was learned here today. The legislature is expected to meet in January.

Ottawa, November 27. — (C) — The C.C.F. sub-amendment to the Progressive Conservative amendment to the King vote of confidence motion, Mr. J. Caldwell declared in the House tonight: "From the discussion last week we (the C.C.F.) cannot accept the order-in-council as a proper or sound policy to meet the needs of the armed forces."

The C.C.F. sub-amendment is as follows: "That this House is in favor of a vigorous war effort, which requires immediate removal of all distinctions between drafted and volunteer personnel thus making available for overseas service. Further, the material and financial resources of Canada should also be conscripted to insure a total war effort and full employment after the war."

"If 16,000 trained men are required between now and next May," said Mr. Caldwell, "and if, as now, it seems likely the war against Germany is prolonged beyond that time and, if, as has been intimated, we are obligated to play some part in the war against Japan, further reinforcements will be needed."

"Why, then, pass an order-in-council, which fails to do all that may be necessary and satisfied nobody?" queried Mr. Caldwell. "To my mind, it looks less than adequate and it is certainly not statesmanlike. If it is done to placate

the anti-conscription followers of the government it fails miserably, and if it is done to assure our armies of vigorous support in the war effort it fails equally."

"To my mind," declared the C.C.F. leader, "the government has merely invited the obvious criticism that it is trying to play politics during a great war crisis when statesmanship of the highest order was demanded."

"If they had come to Parliament," said Mr. Caldwell, "and stated frankly that unexpected casualties in the infantry had made it necessary to make available the N.R.M.A. army for immediate and subsequent reinforcements and presented the facts as they were partially given to the House by Gen. McNaughton last week they would have had the respect of the country and of honorable members who come to this House with unbiased minds. As it is, they have forfeited that respect."

FOUR ARMIES NOW

There were now four, instead of two armies, Mr. Caldwell argued. First, there were the general service men who had already volunteered for service anywhere; second, those among the 16,000 trained N.R.M.A. men who would volunteer under the threat of compulsory service in Europe; third, the men of the same army who did not volunteer but were drafted for service in Europe; and, fourth, the remaining 52,000 who were in the N.R.M.A. force in Canada.

"Surely," said Mr. Caldwell, "it is confusion worse confounded, and is a policy which neither this House nor the country can support."

Mr. Caldwell said that was why his party's sub-amendment sought to change the policy into one which removed all distinctions as to service and benefits.

"The government's policy is bad," he said, "because it discriminates between men who have been called to serve under the same law and conditions. This will cause endless confusion and difficulties in the future. Since reinforcements can only be obtained in one way why not place all these N.R.M.A. men on the same footing? How can this House be expected to vote confidence in the government's policy to maintain a vigorous war effort when its proposals fall far short of obvious requirements?"

Turning his attention to the official opposition, Mr. Caldwell said he could not see that party as the alternative to the government. "Their own irresponsibility during this controversy and debate," he

said, "makes it impossible for either this House or the country to place any confidence in their intentions or their ability."

"There's been a really shocking display of political manoeuvring," said Mr. Caldwell. "Some of their highly placed friends, and a section of the press supporting them, have done their best to inflame sectional differences and hatreds. Some of their pleas for support of the splendid and brave men who are serving their country on land, on sea and in the air have a hollow sound." He declared the Conservatives did not treat the soldiers well after the last war.

"For ourselves," said Mr. Caldwell in conclusion, "we intend to give all the support we can to those who are fighting our battles overseas, both in regard to reinforcements, whatever that involves, to provide decently for those loved ones they leave behind, and to prepare for those who return, a Canada in which they may find security and opportunities for the free, abundant life for which they fight beyond the seas. If we fail to this, their sacrifices, their suffering and their victory will have been in vain."

Premier's Speech One of His Best As He Fights for Political Life

By JAMES MACKENZIE FYFE
(Gazette Staff Writer.)

Ottawa, November 27.—With a sense of history strong upon him Prime Minister Mackenzie King fought for his political life for nearly three hours in the House of Commons this afternoon. It was a remarkable performance; at its best his effort was in the finest tradition of political oratory, at its worst it was merely diffuse, incohesive and tending to smack of a parliamentary filibuster.

Mr. King, who is a stickler for answering every point of the argument, documented his position at length, with the result that much of his speech lost its dramatic impact. Yet in its overall effect it was a persuasive statement of his position; it may well be remembered as his best appeal to the Commons.

No one present in the chamber could escape the sense that here at last was brought to pinpoint focus all the divergent streams of opinion that have been sweeping inward on the capital in the past two weeks. Once more the galleries were full and eager listeners neared the walls, and as the strain forward to hear they epitomized

The issue now, as Mr. King sees it, is simply whether his government is to continue the prosecution of the war or whether it is to be replaced by another. In his opinion there is no one else capable of forming a government with the support of a majority of the House. He told his own party flatly that if he doesn't get their support he will resign. If the leaders of the other opposition groups are not prepared to take the responsibility of forming a government and putting through the conscription policy, he told them, they owe it to the present administration to support it.

It was perhaps to his own party followers that Mr. King appealed most urgently. Turning his back on the aisle and facing his ample Quebec following he told them that he had never sought to appease Quebec or one section of the country more than another, that he had acted in the interest of Canada as a whole. But if he had sought in the past to defend Quebec, he reminded them, it was not merely because of principles of fair play, and justice but through the conviction that the majority cannot be too careful in protecting the rights of minorities. He recalled his affinity with Laurier, his friendship with Lapointe, and he quoted at length from these statesmen to justify the policy he inaugurated this week.

What effect this appeal, which was in many ways a moving one, will have on the Quebec contingent remains to be seen. It is felt here tonight that it is likely to be nil, especially when the remarks of Mr. Godbout in Quebec are taken into consideration. As for the opposition across the floor (which will vote against Mr. King for a totally different reason) it does not seem that his speech has changed any minds. Toward the close of his remarks patience was wearing thin, and the decorum which had been maintained for an unusually long period began to evaporate.

COUNTRY DIVIDED

The political prospects raised by Mr. King's motion are endless. If the government gets its vote of confidence will it reflect public opinion? Obviously not, for the country is now divided among those who feel that the government is not doing enough and those who feel that it has gone too far.

The Conservatives, in an amendment, have demanded more complete conscription, and Quebec members of the Liberal party will lose no time in realizing that to imperil the stability of the government would not produce results favorable to the no-conscription policy to which they adhere. Thus, the vigor of the Conservative opposition will tend only to strengthen the government's hand. And if the opposition groups vote against the government they will find themselves in bed with the anti-conscriptionists of Quebec, which will make them most unhappy.

Col. Ralston continues to occupy the spotlight. He is regarded as the key man in the situation who has demonstrated a thorough knowledge of its intricacies. He is now being looked to as something of a bellwether: If he votes with the government many others will follow him. The C.C.F. has indicated that what is good enough for them, but it is also recognized that Col. Ralston may yet have a good deal to say in reply to Mr. King, who today again reproached him for the tardiness with which the government was warned of the impending shortage of infantry replacement.

Mr. Power is reported to have confided to intimates that he resigned because his constituents voted overwhelmingly against the plebiscite; he felt he could no longer represent them honestly in the King Government. If other

Quebec members take the same line many defections are looked for. There is another straw blowing about in the wind which perhaps ought to be reported: It is being said here that Premier Maurice Duplessis will shortly call an election while Liberal stock is low in the province in the hope of improving his majority.

ing judgment on the Prime Minister's words. It was perhaps unfortunate from his point of view that the first business of the House was to hear his acceptance of Air Minister Power's resignation and the exchange of correspondence between them. For Mr. Power turned attention once more to one of the greatest anomalies of the present situation when he said that he could not receive from Gen. McNaughton the recommendation he felt obliged to reject when it was made by an old comrade and tried associate, Layton Ralston. Nor could it have been helpful to Mr. King to have had so clearly demonstrated, before he began to speak, the impossibility of the situation in which one of his ministers has resigned because the government has not done enough and another has departed because it has done too much.

But the Prime Minister got under way peaceably enough with the House listening in attention and respect. The government has made its decision on the military aspect of the manpower policy and he was now testing its political consequences.

Whatever happens, this much can be said of the Prime Minister's personal position as he revealed it to the House: The events of the past month have driven him hard, he has gone through a good deal at the hands of the two factions within his cabinet, but he is convinced that the step he has now taken to reinforce the men at the front was the right one. He is content to lose prestige, popularity and power in the knowledge that the future will recognize his course to have been the best one for the country.

Much of his address was self-revelatory in this manner. In addition to his sense of history as he has a proper appreciation of his own place in the annals of Canada; thus when he was speaking of the crisis that has jeopardized his government's position he gave the impression of looking forward to the fu-

ture as much as backward on the immediate events that precipitated it.

ADMITS WEARINESS.

Mr. King did not admit that he was a tired old man, but he stopped only short of saying so in deliberately creating the impression that his years, which are not to be denied, now begin to press heavily on him, and that he would be relieved to have another take his place. It was on that note that Mr. King sprang what was probably the biggest surprise of the afternoon when he announced that he had offered to his colleagues in the cabinet. But it is to be noted that he also asked the gentlemen across the aisle if they were prepared to form a government; if his canvass of his cabinet colleagues was conducted in the same rhetorical manner it is not surprising that he found no takers, for the offer would have been meaningless and Mr. King would very probably have been considerably offended if it had been taken seriously.

CONFIDENCE TAXED BRACKEN ASSERTS

Sees in Conscription Order 'But Another Political Manoeuvre'

Ottawa, November 27.—John Bracken, national leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, said tonight that the policy whereby 16,000 Home Defence troops will be sent overseas in the next six months had been accepted by Prime Minister Mackenzie King and Defence Minister McNaughton "under circumstances which placed a heavy tax on our confidence in them."

Addressing a nominating convention of Ottawa West Progressive Conservative Association, Mr. Bracken said Mr. King, "with the pistols of his conscriptionist ministers at his head," had turned again to a policy of appeasement.

"If this government order-in-council, with its provision for partial conscription be meant honestly, why is Ralston (Col. J. L. Ralston, former Defence Minister), kicked out and McNaughton, the anti-conscriptionist, put in?"

"The Prime Minister has dropped a tried and experienced administrator and taken on one he had dismissed but a few months before. If the colonel's policy and advice were right and the general's policy and advice were wrong, why isn't Col. Ralston, who recommended the new policy, taken back into the cabinet to administer it and Gen. McNaughton, who advocated the wrong policy, dismissed?"

Mr. Bracken said the answer "we are bound to suspect" is that this new advice might well turn out to be "but another political manoeuvre."

Norman B. MacCrostie was chosen the party's candidate in Ottawa West Riding. He defeated F. H. Plant, a former mayor of Ottawa and only other nominee, by 597 votes to 361. Sitting member is G. J. McIlraith, Liberal.

DRAFTEES INCREASE G.S. ENLISTMENTS

McNaughton Reports Rise Especially Evident Among French-speaking Troops

Ottawa, November 27.—Home defence draftee volunteers for overseas for the week ended last Saturday were more than four times greater than the average weekly figures for October and the early part of November, Defence Minister McNaughton announced tonight.

He said the increases were particularly evident in returns from French-speaking personnel.

Meanwhile selection of draftees is being carried out with the objective of "making available immediately for dispatch overseas the best-trained infantry reinforcements."

He said the units from which the selections were being made are representative of all sections of the Dominion. He added that there would be no discrimination against draftees in the matter of war service gratuities.

The statement: "The selection of N.R.M.A. personnel to proceed overseas under the terms of the order-in-council recently passed, extending the area of service of such personnel to the European theatres, is being carried out with the objective of making available immediately for dispatch overseas the best-trained infantry reinforcements. This is the only arm of the service in which there is a possible prospective shortage of reinforcements."

"The units now in Canada from which this selection is being made are representative of all sections of the Dominion, and it is estimated that the men so selected will provide an adequate representation from all parts of the country to meet the requirements of the overseas units from the various territorial areas of Canada."

"In connection with the matter of gratuities, under the War Service Grants Act, to which this personnel will be entitled; when this question was discussed in the House of Commons last week, both the Minister of Veterans' Affairs and the Minister of National Defence gave assurance of the government's intention to make provision that all personnel proceeding overseas will receive the same treatment regarding gratuities payable in respect of their period of service overseas."

"The Minister of National Defence also stated that voluntary enlistments from the general public for service overseas continues at a satisfactory rate."

"As regards the N.R.M.A., he said that the figures for the week ending Saturday, November 25, covering the men in N.R.M.A. units who had voluntarily assumed the obligation for service overseas, had increased to more than four-fold over the average weekly figures for October and the early part of November. The increases had been particularly evident in the returns from our French-speaking personnel."

TIM BUCK APPEALS FOR KING SUPPORT

He Urges Labor to Back Order-in-Council on Reinforcements

Toronto, November 27.—Tim Buck, national leader of the Labor-Progressive party, told a mass meeting at Massey Hall tonight that labor should support the order-in-council which authorizes sending up to 16,000 members of the home defence army overseas and declared his party at all times has supported a policy of universal compulsory war service.

"But that is not the issue at this moment," he said. "We are reaping in this crisis the results of a weak Liberal policy, most especially in connection with the vacillating war policy of the government in Quebec, but nothing that is wrong will be corrected by Tory policy."

"Proof of this is the fact that the unscrupulous press campaign of the past weeks has had the effect not of easing the draftee situation by convincing the N.R.M.A. army to volunteer for active service, but of making it more difficult for Gen. McNaughton (Defence Minister) to give his plan a fair trial."

"Now the government's order-in-council providing for the sending of 16,000 N.R.M.A. men overseas constitutes the basis for agreement. Labor should stand behind the new order and support the government in making it work to provide every reinforcement that is required overseas. But the Tories are not satisfied and will push the issue to the point where they hope to bring down the government on an issue which will disappear soon but which they hope will give them control of Canada in the crucial post-war years."

A STORMY SESSION

General McNaughton's Address to Ottawa Legion

AN extremely critical and oftentimes bitter audience of ex-servicemen of this and the First Great War on November 6 heard Canada's new Defence Minister, General A. G. L. McNaughton, announce that he was the father of the Canadian system of voluntary service in the present struggle.

Voluntary service, he told the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Legion, was adopted on his advice by the Dominion Government in 1939, and the very fact that he had now accepted the Defence portfolio showed conclusively "that Prime Minister King has stuck to the advice given by me."

STORMY SESSION

It was a stormy session with a tense crowd of more than 700 filling the hall for the Defence Minister's first public appearance in Ottawa since his appointment to the Cabinet.

Interruptions were frequent as mingled boos and cheers broke into his prepared address. Then question after question was thrown from the floor at the General about his plans for disposition of the 70,000 men of the Home Defence Army.

The following is a condensed report of the tumultuous meeting in Ottawa at which the members of the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Legion, speaking undoubtedly on behalf of all their comrades throughout the country, made it plain to General McNaughton that they strongly disapprove of his plan to continue voluntary enlistment of Home Defence men for overseas service.

The temper of the meeting — the regular monthly session of the Ottawa Branch — was set before General McNaughton's arrival.

Holding up a copy of a local newspaper, President R. B. Halpenny, who was chairman of the meeting, drew attention to the front page flare which read: "Canadian Legion Demands Conscription".

"I want a resolution from the floor of this meeting", he invited, "to back up the Dominion Council in its conscription policy announced today."

McNaughton Addresses Ottawa Legion

A sectional view of the meeting last month at which the new Defence Minister, Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, addressed the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Legion. A packed hall heard the minister re-affirm his belief in the policy of voluntary enlistment for overseas service — a policy to which his listeners took strong, outspoken exception. Note numerous newspaper correspondents seated next to platform. (Canadian Army Photo).



you who are veterans or past wars and who know — to accept the assurance that I give that there is no other way to correct this situation in time to be of use."

Continued shouting of "No! No! No!" stopped the General short.

Shouts to "take the Zombies", broke out again.

The General, unruffled, waited for the chairman to bring the meeting to order before further outlining his policy, which has been published by every newspaper in the Dominion and which space limitations do not permit The Legionary to reiterate.

QUESTION PERIOD

Even before the General sat down, members of the audience were on their feet with questions.

"Is this policy popular in the eight English-speaking provinces?" came the first question.

"A fair question", said General McNaughton. "I have never been one who rested a decision in great matters on a question of popularity one way or another."

"Summoned by the Government in October of 1939, I was told I had been entrusted with the task of raising the first Canadian division and associated troops."

"And when asked to outline the fundamental basis for organization, I made

The formal motion was passed unanimously by a standing vote amid a thunder of cheers and applause.

TWO METHODS

First interruption of the General's address came when, repending the words of his Armiprior speech of November 4, he said: "Two methods of solution (of the reinforcement problem) are open. One is to continue the voluntary system for service overseas. . . ."

Here there was a long and loud chorus of "No! No!"

The General stood and waited, and when the shouting died, continued:

" . . . the other is to resort to compulsion."

Here cheering rang through the assembly hall.

"Make them do what others were made to do", rang a voice.

"Exactly", called another.

The shouting subsided and the General continued:

"I know full well. . . ."

"No you don't", someone shouted.

"I know full well there is an honest difference of opinion as to the respective merits of these systems", the General concluded his sentence.

A moment later, the General on the basis of "reading and study" of reports from officers in the field, declared:

"I am firmly convinced that the best hope lies in the maintenance of our long traditions of voluntary service."

Again shouts of "No! No! No!" tumbled in a long chorus of shouting from dozens of throats.

"What about the poor fellows who



in the Capital

by ceremonies through the country on at any time since the outbreak of war, campaign was greater than ever before.

at the Canadian Legion's impressive by His Excellency the Governor-General, Earl of Athlone is seen in the centre of the 1, of Ottawa, representing the mothers of 3, and, on the extreme right, Mr. Will /ice-President of the Canadian Legion, who represented the Dominion President, Mr. Alex. Walker, C.B.E., of Calgary. In the third row behind the Governor-General is seen, in dark hat and overcoat with medals, Mr. E. J. Struthers, of Ottawa and Rock Island, P.Q., Dominion 2nd Vice-President of the Legion. Note Legion Standards in background. (Canadian Army Photo).

it clear beyond the peradventure of a doubt, that I thought I could only carry it through on the basis of voluntary enlistment. . . .

"I have seen what the voluntary system can do. Without it we would have had no army worthy of the name. . . ."

"Popularity has nothing to do with it. It rests only on merit."

PARENTS' FEELINGS

An ex-serviceman who had been identifying himself previously as "the voice from the lower deck", and "the voice of the rank and file", called out to the General:

"What is the feeling of the Canadian father who has sacrificed one or two sons, and has another lad coming of military age?"

"How dare you, sir, say to these boys whose brothers have been killed — how dare you ask these youngsters to go, when you have in this land 70,000 men with whom you know not what to do?"

"Are you going to send these boys

over? You must be heartless. You must be utterly bad."

At this, the General strode to the edge of the platform and peered out over the audience before replying. Then, slowly, he said:

"I say to you that this is no way to debate one of the most serious questions in front of us today. There never was a time when we should approach these matters with open minds and without passion, and base our decisions on cold reason as now."

POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY

Another ex-serviceman asked:

"Though the Minister may be sincere, is he in his conscience also satisfied that the Prime Minister is not looking only to political expediency?"

There were cheers, and from the gallery came a voice:

"He's looking for 65 votes." (Quebec elects 65 members to the Commons.)

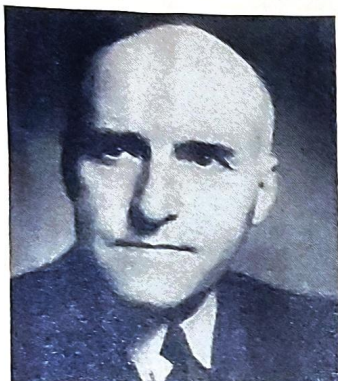
"Answer yes or no", called another.

"The fundamental basis of recruiting,"

Ralston Keeps Faith

By T. A. McMaster

"Be yours to hold it high", the poet said,
Referring to that sacred, solemn trust
Bequeathed by men returned, alas, to dust,
Who loved life but, loving, did not shed
Their courage — lacking in the living dead.
They shall not rest while regional distrust
Withholds the man-power needed for that thrust
So vital to the Cause for which we bled.
Our sons are "over there" and, loving life,
They, too, have fought, are fighting and will die
While Yes-men vacillate 'mid crises rise
And Zombies, unashamed, stand idly by.
A Fighters' Man emerges from the strife,
Retrieves the Torch and proudly holds it high.



Colonel J. L. Ralston
C.M.G., D.S.O.

MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER

AT the meeting with Prime Minister Mackenzie King on November 9 the Legion's Executive Council stated its views on the conscription issue in a carefully prepared letter which was read and fully discussed.

During the interview, which lasted an hour and 20 minutes, the Prime Minister reiterated his well-known belief in the voluntary system and his reasons for not introducing conscription for overseas service. Needless to say, the Legion officers' views remained completely unchanged.

Present at the interview were Defence Minister A. G. L. McNaughton, Reconstruction Minister C. D. Howe, Veterans' Affairs Minister Ian Mackenzie and Health Minister Brooke Claxton.

The Dominion Council's letter to Mr. King read:—
The Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:—

It has long been the considered conviction of the Canadian Legion that this war demands the total mobilization of our nation's resources and that any thought that it could be fought on a purely voluntary basis is pure romanticism. All recognize the inadequacy of attempting to finance the war by volunteer subscription and it would be so obviously unjust that it could not even be considered feasible. The volunteer method of using our manpower is no less inadequate and even more unjust. Four years ago the Government recognized the necessity of compulsory military service but refused to apply that principle to service overseas because of previous election commitments. Two years ago the Legion co-operated with the Government in a plebiscite designed to release the Government from that pledge. Two-thirds of the people who voted across Canada voted Yes, and in eight out of nine Provinces the percentage was overwhelmingly higher. At the time the responsible Government heads, including the Prime Minister, gave us assurance that if the situation demanded it conscription for overseas service would be imposed. We come now asking that that promise be implemented because all information available to us indicates that it has become necessary.

The battle casualties, exclusive of normal wastage, are according to the latest figures about twice the rate of recruitments. Artillery, R.C.A.F., and other specialized branches of the Service are being stripped to provide reinforcements for the infantry, and only a few days ago one of the responsible

a challenge to the Legion to again arouse public opinion as in nineteen forty-one to demand full implementation of total war policy stop I request provincial commands to both lead and arouse branches in an effort to secure local action from other organizations, public bodies etcetera and particularly to see that Members of Parliament are approached if possible before the House convenes stop A circular has gone out to all branches with copies of recent statements by council for their use and guidance stop What is needed now is the strongest possible public backing of a demand for the replacement of voluntary enlistment by conscription and immediate use of draftees for overseas reinforcements."

POOL OF DRAFTEES LARGELY IN WEST

Those in Quebec Camps Form Smallest Units of Any Part of Canada

Ottawa, November 25. — (P) — The September 30 disposition of 26,000 operational home defence infantry from which most of the 16,000 men likely will be drawn for the overseas reinforcement stream under the government's partial conscription policy showed that Pacific Command had the

most—17,000—and Quebec the least—200.

Figures released today by War-time Information Board's publication Canada at War showed there was a total of 22,200 draftees of this category in Canada and 3,800 in "adjacent territories" — in operational units.

Besides the total mentioned as being in the Pacific Command and Quebec there were 4,700 in the Maritimes, 2,200 in the Prairies and 1,500 in Ontario.

A comprehensive W.I.B. table broke down the effective draftee strength of 60,000 and showed the various stages of training of the total infantry potential of 42,000 men.

The table showed the districts where the men were serving September 30 and not where they were enrolled. The figures were not adjusted for Quebec and Ontario military districts that overlapped in each province.

Table showing disposition of the total 42,000 infantry potential:

	Op. Units	Nonop. Units	Training Stream	Total
Ontario	1,300	2,300	3,900	7,500
Quebec	200	3,000	1,800	5,000
Maritimes	3,900	1,700	900	6,500
Prairies	1,800	700	900	3,500
Pacific Cmd.	14,900	300	500	15,700
Total	22,200	8,000	8,000	38,200
Adj. Territories	3,800	.....	.....	3,800
Grand total	26,000	8,000	8,000	42,000

Table showing disposition of the remainder:

	Op. Units	Nonop. Units	Training Stream	Others	Total
Ontario	200	2,100	1,600	300	4,200
Quebec	.....	2,800	700	1,000	4,500
Maritimes	800	1,600	400	400	3,200
Prairies	300	600	400	200	1,500
Pacific Cmd.	3,000	400	100	300	3,800
Total	4,300	7,500	3,200	2,200	17,200
Adj. territories	800	.....	.....	.....	300
Grand total	5,100	7,500	3,200	2,200	18,000

Godbout Takes Stand Against King Regime

Quebec, November 27. — (P) — Adelard Godbout, former Liberal Premier of Quebec and leader of the Liberal opposition in the provincial Legislature, said in a statement today that "as long as the Ottawa government persists in its sudden, unexpected and unexplainable attitude, it will have to count on the opposition of the Liberals of Quebec of which I am the head."

Mr. Godbout said he took his stand against the federal government's policy on conscription "with regret, but definitely."

"I have always been against conscription for overseas service," he said, "and I think that the voluntary system is in the best interests of the country at large. I still think that, and I think also that this encroachment on the Liberal principles is a mistake for which the people of Canada will ask a severe accounting."

"For the past five years, the voluntary system has given the best results. If the necessary measures had been taken, I think it would have continued to be the best until the end of the war."

"I have only one attitude, and I will maintain it."

KING-POWER LETTERS

Ottawa, November 27. — (P) — Following is the text of an exchange of letters between Prime Minister Mackenzie King and Hon. C. G. Power, whose resignation as Air Minister, was accepted today:

Maj. Power to Mr. King, November 23. —

It is with the deepest regret that I ask you to accept my resignation as a member of your cabinet.

I am unable to accept the policy which the government has now adopted with respect to the National Resources Mobilization Act. I do not believe such a policy to be necessary at this time, nor will it save one single Canadian casualty.

I parted company with Col. Ralston after the most mature consideration largely on the grounds that the number of troops which he reported as being required was comparatively so small, the means to remedy the situation without placing undue strain on the men at the front so readily available, and the end of the war so imminent that weighing everything in the balance we were not justified in provoking a national scission.

I cannot accept now from a new minister Gen. McNaughton a recommendation which I reluctantly felt obliged to reject when made by an old comrade and tried associate, Layton Ralston.

May I add that the task which you confided to me in May, 1940, of organizing the British Commonwealth joint air training plan has now been completed and the plan is being wound up. The Royal Canadian Air Force overseas has reached the peak of its expansion.

I shall always treasure the years of association with you and my

colleagues and I thank you and them for all kindness and consideration they have shown.

Mr. King to Maj. Power November 27. —

I duly received, on the 23rd instant, your letter of that day tendering your resignation as a member of the government.

Since its receipt, I have, as you know, hoped that you might find it possible to reconsider your decision. I have felt that the importance of the service which, as a member of the government, you might have continued to render Canada's war effort would have outweighed the other considerations on which you felt it necessary to resign. As, however, you have come to the conclusion that you must adhere to your original decision, I have most reluctantly been obliged to advise the Governor-General that your resignation should be accepted; to this advice his Excellency has given his consent.

I need not say how great is my regret that so trusted a colleague and so close a friend should leave the ministry at this time. This regret will, I know, be shared by all members of the government.

On my own behalf and on theirs, I would like warmly to reciprocate the feelings you have expressed as to what the years of our association have meant to all of us personally; also to express appreciation of what your services in the ministry at a time of war have meant to our country and to the cause of freedom.

OTTAWA REPORTS FOURNIER RESIGNS

But Minister of Public Works
Refuses to Deny or
Confirm Rumor

Ottawa, November 27. — (P) — Rumors continued to circulate on Parliament Hill today that Public Works Minister Fournier had either resigned or was thinking of resigning on the conscription issue.

Reporters, however, were unsuccessful in getting a statement from Mr. Fournier.

The newsmen were told by the minister's parliamentary office that Mr. Fournier had gone to the chamber. But when he did not appear at his seat the newsmen investigated and found that Mr. Fournier was standing out of sight behind the curtain at the rear of the chamber. He had an ear glued to an opening in the curtain and was listening to Prime Minister Mackenzie King's speech.

A page told him the press would like to see him in the government lobby and he shook his head. Then a newsmen beckoned and whispered that he would like a word with the minister.

"I'm listening to this very important speech," Mr. Fournier whispered back and renewed his position at the curtain.

Previously the minister's private secretary had stated: "We still have no comment to make on the reports." Mr. Fournier is the member for the Quebec constituency of Hull.

There also were reports that Agriculture Minister Gardiner might resign, but when approached he said: "I have not resigned."

Draftees May Go G.S. Up to Embarking Day

Ottawa, November 27. — (P) — Home defence troops ordered overseas may convert to general service by volunteering up to the time of embarkation, Prime Minister Mackenzie King said today in the Commons.

"All N.R.M.A. personnel who convert to general service before embarkation will be deducted from the 16,000 N.R.M.A. men the Army now is authorized to send overseas."

"The order-in-council applies to all personnel who are serving or may serve in consequence of having been called up under the National Resources Mobilization Act," Mr. King explained.

"That is one order-in-council covers the entire force."

The enactment of such an order followed the procedure laid down by the government during discussion in the Commons in 1942.

"It was in reference to such an order-in-council that it was stipulated that the government would place the order before the House and that I would wish to be assured that I had the support of Parliament in administering the order," Mr. King said.

Gazette

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1944.

POLITICS BLAMED FOR DISUNITY NOW

Jean Charles Harvey Declares
Conscription Would
Have Been Accepted in 1940

PLEADS FOR UNITY

Tells Dominion Douglas
Men's Club Calm, Moderate
Thinking Our Greatest
Need Now

If the politicians who wrongly said revolution in Quebec would follow a declaration of conscription had called for total mobilization at the fall of France in 1940, the present incentive for disunity in Canada would have been avoided, Jean Charles Harvey, editor of *Le Jour*, told the members of the Men's Club of Dominion Douglas Church at a club dinner last night.

In a plea for unity between French and English Canadians, "in a time that calls for calm and moderate thinking," Mr. Harvey blamed present conditions in Canada wholly upon the politicians and thoughtlessly overrated news reports of inconsequential events and statements that have misled the French and taught the English outside Quebec to hate.

Prefacing his address, on Protestants and Roman Catholics Building a Nation, with his views on the animosities presently existing between the two great races in Canada, he said, "It is wrong to make it a matter of race."

"While thousands of our French-speaking men with the armed forces are fighting with great courage overseas, some politicians . . . and unfair articles printed in some English papers have led people outside Quebec to think that all Quebec is against the war effort."

"I tell you that if, after the fall of France in 1940, the authorities had called conscription there would not have been any trouble, but the politicians, Liberal, Conservative and even C.C.F., told the men at Ottawa that conscription would have meant revolution in Quebec."

That was not true, I know my people and they would have submitted to the laws of the country," he said, continuing, "Our population (French) has been misjudged."

LETTERS FROM READERS

Where Did They Stand?

Sir,—Defence Minister McNaughton in a recent press report stated: "Information given me at the conference of officers in Ottawa confirmed my belief more than ever that the continuation of the voluntary policy would provide the reinforcements."

With the resignation of Brig. R. A. Macfarlane, Officer Commanding, M.D. No. 10, Winnipeg, Man., it appears the public is being misled by the statement made by General McNaughton at the press conference.

It would be interesting to the public to know how many of the officers at the conference of officers held by General McNaughton, concurred in the General's belief that the best hope lay in maintaining the voluntary system.

B. WATKIN.

Montreal, November 24.

The Gazette

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The finite mind does not require to grasp the infinitude of truth, but only to go forward from light to light.

—P. Boyne.

MONTREAL, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28.

QUEBEC LEADERS SET EXAMPLE.

Within the last few days—since the Government opened the door to conscription—three leaders of French Canada have spoken. One is His Excellency Cardinal Villeneuve, Archbishop of Quebec. Another is Hon. Maurice Duplessis, premier of the Province of Quebec. The third is Hon. P. J. A. Cardin, who resigned from the cabinet of Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King when Bill 80 was introduced in 1942. All three spoke during one of the most critical times in the history of the province. But each urged an attitude high enough to control the bitterness of disillusionment.

Cardinal Villeneuve presented to his listeners a picture of a struggle on Europe's warfront which Canadians are indeed battling not with flesh and blood but with the powers of darkness. He declared, he declared, had widened to an unquestionable struggle between the stage of the dictators and the freedom of Christianity. Those who had gone to fight were tempted by an ideal as broad and as high as human rights and human freedom. Thus it was Cardinal Villeneuve, as the spiritual leader of the province, to place in perspective the fight which Canada is playing its part.

Hon. Maurice Duplessis drew pointed attention to the fact that no man in a democracy has the right to take the law into his own hands, but must make his will—even his indignation—known within the limits of the constitution and legal order. He did not retire from the open declaration at the authorities at Ottawa have ill-used their power and acted contrary to their engagements and promises. But it was just because of the depth of French Canada's bitterness that he urged restraint. "Be firm in reclaiming our rights," he declared, "but use calmness and moderation which is necessary at all time, and especially so in troubled times." Thus it was proper for Hon. Maurice Duplessis, as the chief executive of the province and himself a lawyer by profession, to urge a respect for the sovereignty of law.

Hon. P. J. A. Cardin declared that he had come to give an accounting for the mandate which had been given him. He had retired from the Liberal cabinet in 1942 because he suspected then that Mr. King was less than sincere in his anti-conscriptionist declarations. What he had suspected had now happened and his action of two years ago had been justified. But though he spoke bitterly of the lack of frankness with which the change in policy had been made, and all the bitterness of "just a little conscription", yet his attitude to French Canadians was not to lose the goodwill of the English-speaking citizens of other provinces. He stressed that he had not come to announce the formation of any political party nor to launch any political creed. Thus it was for Mr. Cardin, as the man who had suspected the element of bad faith in the Government and who had seen it demonstrated, to at once make clear to his countrymen the fact of their deception and the need for an attitude of controlled bitterness.

To understand and appreciate the full value and quality of these restrained statements it is necessary to bear fully and fairly in mind the important place which conscription has come to occupy in the thought and feeling of French Canada. The bitterness of French Canadians at this time arises not only from the fact that a policy has been adopted with which they are not in agreement, but from the sharper fact that the federal Government which has exploited their anti-conscriptionist sentiment through a quarter of a century has now swiftly and evasively presented them with a conscription measure.

True it is that all parties in federal politics have made anti-conscriptionist appeals to Quebec in the hope of winning the Quebec support. The Conservative Party did just that in the last federal election, and its leader, Dr. R. J. Manion, later stated that the party had been defeated because it had somehow failed to make its declarations as convincing as the Liberals. Certain it is that the Liberals, of all federal parties, had built on anti-conscription appeals as on a cornerstone. As late as November 3, 1944, Mr. King was prophesying that conscription would divide the country, not only in the present time, but for generations to come. The anti-conscriptionists of French Canada naturally placed their faith in a man who took so serious a view of their stand. But the element of bad faith in all these anti-conscriptionist promises from federal parties lay in the plain fact that no government could say what the necessities of a long hard war might exact in national sacrifice. These "no-conscription" promises were not made with responsible realism but for political advantage.

The most bitter of all disappointments is the disappointment of disillusionment. This is what French Canada now experiences. In the stress and strain of its inner conflict, its leaders have resisted the temptations of their feelings, and have shown loyalty to the best traditions of an historic province.

Allied troops enter...

MR. POWER BESMIRCHES FINE RECORD.

As Minister of National Defence for Air, Hon. C. G. Power has had the opportunity of directing what may well be regarded as the most extensive and most effective single contribution of Canada to the war potential of the United Nations—the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan and the accompanying mobilization of the R.C.A.F. He has been widely honored for the personal contribution he has made to the success of this great project. His organizing and executive abilities, the broad-scale vision with which he undertook development of the Plan, and his gift for inducing other competent men to work together as a team under him, were key factors in the splendid achievements of the scheme.

It is appalling, therefore, that he should have chosen to besmirch this fine record by his incredibly narrow declaration on the reinforcement question yesterday. In seeking to justify to the House of Commons his resignation from the Government because of the despatch of draftees overseas, Mr. Power did more than expound illogical and unrealistic views of how the reinforcement problem was to be met. He flung before the House and thence to the public what can only be deemed a sinister distortion of the demands of Allied military policy upon the fighting manpower and war commitments of this country.

At the same time he sought to exploit to his own political advantage the most elemental emotions of those whose loved ones are or will be among the troops in battle overseas. The theme of his speech was a reprehensible effort, to stir these emotions with a cruelly inflammatory concept of the effect of High Command requirements on casualties.

Canadians will be astonished and disquieted to the point of anger that Mr. Power, only lately a minister of the Crown responsible for a major phase of Canada's military war effort, should seek to pin on General Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander, the blame for a supposedly brutal policy.

According to Mr. Power, General Eisenhower's strategy is to "strike the enemy again and again, and to give him no rest and no respite." As a governing principle to bring about decisive defeat of Germany at the earliest possible time, the soundness and effectiveness of such a strategy seem self-evident. But this involves, said Mr. Power, replacement of casualties within 24 hours. And then he advanced the astounding contention that "this repeated return to battle, instead of making for less casualties, might very easily make for more."

HAVE WE REALLY COME TO THIS?

The Government is not seeking from the House an expression of confidence in the administration of all its policies but in respect to that on overseas conscription only.

This Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King made clear in his address yesterday in the Commons. He supported his confidence motion with a remarkably curious defence. He took pains to make clear that he has never believed in conscription. He does not believe that any real need overseas makes its adoption necessary even now. It was wholly a movement of organized unrest, the like of which has never been seen in Canada before, that compelled its adoption. This movement of organized unrest, so far from having any justification in fact, will one day "be exposed and fully condemned."

He himself felt "the impact of the shock" when he found that he would have to consider the question of sending men across the seas by conscription at this stage of the war. "What seemed hardest to understand," he said, "was how, after all we have done and were doing to make Canada's effort a total effort, we should suddenly have to either accept or reject this obligation of sending additional men overseas under conscription with all that that was certain to mean."

In order to explain and justify this contention that conscription is really not necessary he proceeded to repeat his previous statement that there is no immediate reinforcement shortage. Col. Ralston, he again says, informed him that there would be no reinforcement crisis until after the New Year, and consequently (Mr. King concludes) the failure to introduce immediate conscription would not have prejudiced the security of the men overseas.

This, of course, is simply a repetition of what Mr. King said in his radio speech on November 8, and which Col. Ralston found it necessary publicly to correct in his statement issued on November 12. In this statement Col. Ralston emphasized that though the crisis would not arise overseas until the New Year, it could be averted only by immediate action at home; for only if immediate action were taken in despatching the draftees could a sufficient number of trained men arrive in time to be put into front-line service, and in this way to prevent the crisis from arising.

♦ ♦ ♦

But Mr. King, ignoring entirely Col. Ralston's correction, repeats the misleading statement that there is no immediate reinforcement crisis. And he asks the question: "Do you wonder that some members of the Cabinet found it difficult to realize why we should be asked to make this further sacrifice?"

More than this, Mr. King went on to emphasize that he was so opposed to conscription that he yielded not to any inner change of conviction but only to the pressure of his Cabinet. He admits that he once feared that he might be left with the full load of responsibility of carrying on the war. When he finally yielded to the Cabinet's demands, he said that he made a "passionate appeal" to his ministers not to press for any extreme measure, but to limit the measure to the specific 16,000 N.R.M.A. men.

Finally Mr. King, even at the present difficult and urgent stage, is determined to continue with his long-established method of presenting himself as the supreme peacemaker, while at the same time practically encouraging the anti-conscriptionists to raise their opposition. He declares that the conscription issue is "the most serious one with which this Parliament, I believe, has been faced at any time." He warns that the country is facing the possibility of anarchy, and asks the leading question: "How can you think that there is not going to be a situation much graver than any of us can realize?"

♦ ♦ ♦

In short, Mr. King, after saying all that any man could say in repudiation of conscription, asks the House to support a confidence motion based wholly on the conscription issue. It is obvious what sort of conscription policy will be possible under such leadership.

Yet support is asked under pressure of threats. He admits that he has threatened his own Cabinet that unless they will attenuate their demands to his mood he will present them with his resignation, and he extends this same threat to Parliament and to the country. And the basis of these threats is the claim—the extraordinarily arrogant claim—that nowhere in his Cabinet nor out of it is there any other man with the capacity of leadership and willingness to assume its burdens.

Has the country really reached this level of impoverishment?

This is directly contradicted by the widely known insistence of General Eisenhower, Field Marshal Montgomery and other Allied leaders on seeking by air power, artillery, tank attacks and exhaustive preliminary measures to keep casualties to a minimum. Quite apart from this, it is incomprehensible that Mr. Power should try to argue that casualties should not be replaced at the earliest possible moment; that battle units should not be kept up to strength but, once put in the line, left to be reduced by a process of attrition or else withdrawn. Did he follow such a policy in training and sending overseas thousands of airmen, not only progressively to increase British-Canadian air strength but to maintain it against the effect of inevitable casualties?

Especially after the comparative dignity and restraint of his letter or resignation, it is regrettable that Mr. Power should retire with such a venomous back-slash that seeks to drag the draftee issue down to such a level. We are sure it will do neither Mr. Power nor Canada any good, and we fear that the echoes of his outburst abroad will be unfortunate.



IT'S YOUR BABY, MR. KING

Anarchy?

Premier Foresees Danger in Dispute

OTTAWA, Nov. 28—(C. P.) —

Unless the "House of Commons can unite in a reasonable measure to support an administration that can carry on at this time of war we have to face the possibility of anarchy in Canada while our men are fighting overseas, giving their lives that we may maintain our free institutions and that we may have a continuation in peace and accord through years to come," Prime Minister Mackenzie King said yesterday in the Commons.

Mr. King made the statement after reading from a speech by Sir John A. Macdonald in 1865 asking for confederation. Sir John had appealed for unity in the face of an impending anarchy. The situation that existed in Canada then was applicable to Canada today, said Mr. King.

"Honorable gentlemen may belittle those words, but they are the words of one, no matter to what party he belongs, which are entitled to the greatest consideration that can be given," said Mr. King.

"If there was danger at a time when all was peaceful throughout the world and Canada was on the threshold of her national life that anarchy might develop in the country because the men of Quebec and the men of Ontario could not unite to compose the differences that were between them and meet the situation, how much greater is that possibility after five years of war, a war that still continues and is in the throes of the most appalling phase of the struggle? How can you think that there is not going to be a situation much graver than any of us can begin to realize?"

THE RIGHT WORD

LEADERS of Quebec thought, while opposing the Government's course on reinforcements, have themselves pursued the admirable policy of counselling restraint by the people. The issue now before the country has given rise in the past to heated controversy, at times to violence. Now, however, there is evidence that Quebec will accept the majority decision, protesting, as it has a right to protest, in the democratic way, but nevertheless abiding by the law.

Premier Duplessis is to be commended for his leadership in this matter. Immediately the decision to send draftees overseas was announced, Mr. Duplessis advised the people of Quebec "to withhold until the proper time their condemnation or otherwise of any acts of the Ottawa Government." "In the interests of the province," he added, "in the interests of the country, I ask everyone to make their wills known within the limits of the Constitution and legality."

This plea to the population to abide by the law has not fallen upon deaf ears. Since last week, when Ottawa announced its new policy, there has been speech-making, but little demonstration. There is every evidence that Quebec is determined, this time, to make its will known to the Government and the rest of Canada, but to do so with the restraint imposed by law and a wholesome Canadianism.

Highlights of Debate

BY PREMIER KING:

Col. J. L. Ralston, former Defence Minister, was asked to head the Government and take the responsibility for a conscription policy but would not do so. Other Cabinet Ministers also declined to head the Government.

Canada faced the possibility of "anarchy" unless the House of Commons could unite behind a government that would carry on.

Canadian soldiers now were among Allied troops fighting on German soil in some measure.

Home Defence troops ordered overseas may convert to general service by volunteering up to the time of embarkation.

His resignation as Prime Minister would be forthcoming if he did not get the support of a large majority of his own party on a vote of confidence motion.

He has never sought to appease Quebec or to please one province rather than another, but he attempted to have the people understand Quebec.

BY GORDON GRAYDON:

The crisis was a reinforcement crisis and it could have been solved by the Government itself had it had the courage to do so without creating the distress it created.

The Progressive Conservatives believed the Government should have made all draftees available for overseas service.

The House had lost confidence in the Prime Minister.

His party's amendment to the vote of confidence motion declared that the Government had failed to obtain adequate reinforcements by failing to establish compulsory service for all Home Defence Army personnel.

BY M. J. COLDWELL:

The C.C.F. party felt that wealth as well as manpower should be conscripted for an all-out war effort.

All parties in the House had repudiated conscription in 1939, but he now was convinced reinforcements were necessary and that the voluntary system was inadequate.

Under the Government's policy, Canada would have four different types of servicemen—General Service personnel, volunteers for the European theatre, men drafted to the front line and Home Defence troops.

His party's sub-amendment to the confidence motion called for removal of all distinction between drafted and volunteer personnel in the Army and total conscription of resources.

Passive Resistance

Students Stage Silent March, Protest Against Conscription

**Banners Denounce "Dictatorship,"
And Charge "National Unity Broken"**

MORE than 2,000 French-Canadian youths, most of them reported to be students, carried posters denouncing conscription and the "Imperialistic dictatorship" in a silent march last night which took them from Lafontaine Park to Phillips Square for a 15-minute period of silence followed by the singing of "O Canada."

After remaining still on the square for a few minutes, with posters and banners high, one of the leaders of the parade climbed the steps of the King Edward VII monument and told a silent audience that "our aim has been achieved."

Mustn't Do Damage

He added: "You must break nothing. This is the aim of this demonstration. In a few minutes we shall all sing 'O Canada', and afterwards you must all disband and return quietly to your homes. You must not damage anything."

Three youths stood on the steps of the monument holding up a banner which read "National Unity Is Broken."

The silence was broken when the order was given for the singing of "O Canada", with all singing as loud as they could. Passers-by on St. Catherine street gathered near the square and some joined in the singing.

The parade started from the Dollard Monument in Lafontaine Park shortly after 8 o'clock and marched slowly down Amherst street to St. Catherine street and west to Phillips Square.

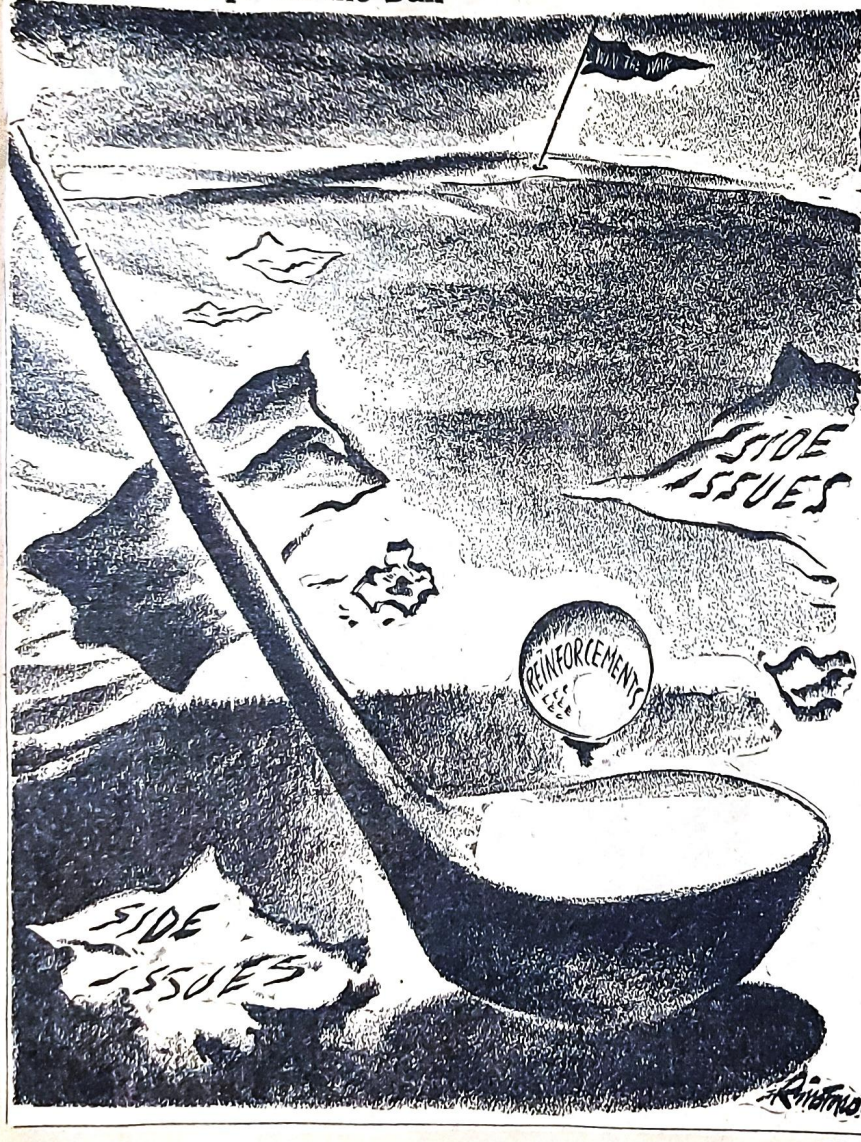
Traffic Delayed

Street cars and busses were delayed as the participants staged their march down the centre of Amherst and St. Catherine streets, and long lines of automobiles had to find other thoroughfares. Westbound trams were forced to follow the parade slowly along the streets, although some of the cars were re-routed along Ontario street. Eastbound trams were not affected.

A few unidentified young men in army uniforms accompanied the paraders along the route of march.

Leaders of the parade walked alongside the youths all along the route and discouraged them from talking. "Silence! Silence!" one of the leaders said as some of the youths began talking just west of Bleury street. The parade and period of silence at Phillips Square ended before 10 o'clock.

Keep Your Eye on the Ball



B.C. Army Demonstrators Described as Mutineers

Pay and Allowances Stopped On Refusing Orders—Men Carry Arms

VANCOUVER, Nov. 28—(C.P.)—A military spokesman at Terrace, B.C., today described draftee troops who have engaged in anti-conscription demonstrations there for three days as "mutineers" and said their pay and allowances have been stopped while they refuse to take orders from their officers.

(The brigade at Terrace is made up of a French-speaking regiment from Quebec and English-speaking regiments from Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island.)

The demonstrations at Terrace, 450 miles north of Vancouver, were the largest of a half-dozen in British Columbia during the week-end. The third day of the demonstrations at Terrace came to a close last night without violence and the spokesman at Brigade Headquarters indicated the present attitude among the men would be allowed to run its course providing there is no injury to civilians or damage to civilian property.

Men Carried Arms

A dispatch from Terrace said that draftee troops from the camp of a French-Canadian regiment began to parade at 1.30 p.m. Monday and marched for hours through the streets. They were not as noisy as in earlier parades but some carried Bren guns for the first time since the demonstrations began. The parade, which was followed by officers in vehicles, stopped at a sawmill where a meeting was held.

As a result of the demonstration yesterday, school classes being held in the Terrace Canadian Legion Hall have been cancelled. Officials said they feared damage to the school as demonstrators damaged a sign there Saturday.

The Army spokesman said the parade involved 1,000 to 1,500 men. He added that not more than 25 per cent of the troops in the area were actively involved and that the remainder were forced into the demonstration by intimidation. "Men are going active just to get away from those people," he continued.

Look Torpedoes

At the weekend the men took Bangalore torpedoes and mortar bombs but returned them later, saying they were too dangerous to fool with. However, they still have rifle ammunition, said the spokesman, adding that messages have been sent to Prime Minister Mackenzie King through the General Officer Commanding listing the grievances of the demonstrators.

"It boils down to the fact they just don't want to go overseas," said the spokesman.

A dispatch from Terrace last night said that draftees from three regiments took part in the demonstration and that they had demanded that they be returned to their homes in Quebec.

Pacific Command Headquarters here announced that inquiries will be made into demonstrations at six British Columbia centres since Friday in which draftee troops protested the Dominion Government's decision to make 16,000 callup troops available for overseas service.

Other Demonstrations

Demonstrations have been held at Vernon, Chilliwack, Nanaimo, Courtenay, Prince George and Terrace. The only recurrences yesterday were at Terrace and at Prince George where about 500 men marched through snow-covered streets for less than an hour, carrying anti-conscription placards and shouting slogans.

At Vernon an attempt to organize

a second demonstration last night was squelched by military police who dispersed paraders gathering outside their barracks. From 130 to 200 draftees had gathered when the military police arrived. Earlier yesterday section seven of the King's Rules and Regulations of Canada were read to every Home Defence man in camp with emphasis on the penalty phrase threatening imprisonment for life for any soldier convicted of inciting to mutiny, rioting or taking part in any similar disturbance.

Ottawa Parade Halted

OTTAWA, Nov. 28—(C.P.)—Active service troops, sailors and civilians last night broke up an anti-conscription parade of about 100 N.R.M.A. troops within a few blocks of its starting point at Lansdowne Park.

The group formed up on a side street near the park and carrying signs reading "Down With Conscription," made their way up Bank street. Spectators said that at Bank and Clewlow streets in Ottawa South two sailors and an active service soldier spotted the parade and mixed in with the paraders when their invitation to "Step out and fight" was refused.

City police squad cars, Army provost cars and members of the naval shore patrol went to the scene and when a third police car arrived the demonstrators took to flight, dropping their signs as they went. Police said no arrests were made and no serious injuries were reported.

It was reported that the parade apparently was organized earlier last night with the object of traveling to Parliament Hill. Residents of the Lansdowne Park district said one group was formed about 6 p.m., but that it later broke up without moving off. Only property damage reported was the tearing of a mailbox from a telephone pole near the scene of the scuffle.

More Volunteers

Home Defence draftee volunteers for overseas for the week ended last Saturday were more than four times greater than the average weekly figures for October and the early part of November. Defence Minister McNaughton announced last night.

He said the increases were particularly evident in returns from French-speaking personnel.

Meanwhile selection of draftees is being carried out with the objective of "making available immediately for dispatch overseas the best-trained infantry reinforcements."

He said the units from which the selections were being made are

representative of all sections of the Dominion. He added that there would be no discrimination against draftees in the matter of war service gratuities.

The statement:— "The selection of N.R.M.A. personnel to proceed overseas under the terms of the order-in-council recently passed, extending the area of service of such personnel to the European theatres, is being carried out with the objective of making available immediately for dispatch overseas the best-trained infantry reinforcements. This is the only arm of the service in which there is a possible prospective shortage of reinforcements."

"The units now in Canada from which this selection is being made are representative of all sections of the Dominion, and it is estimated that the men so selected will provide an adequate representation from all parts of the country to meet the requirements of the overseas units from the various territorial areas of Canada."

Quebec Undecided

Members Caucus To Hear Premier

A comprehensive report of the Prime Minister's address and opposition speakers' statements will be found on pages four and five.

OTTAWA, Nov. 28—(C.P.)—Leaving a caucus of Quebec Liberal members of Parliament here today, War Services Minister LaFleche said that "It was a very cordial meeting and there will be no bolters" from the party over the conscription issue.

OTTAWA, Nov. 28—(Star Special by Staff Correspondent)—Whether the hitherto commanding majority of the Mackenzie King Government in the House of Commons may be whittled to the vanishing point was the subject of endless conferring and calculating and caucusing in Parliamentary circles today.

There are 234 members in the House. There are 11 vacancies. Of that 234 the Government ordinarily has a commanding lead. The lead is now the subject of "very heavy inroads."

The Quebec Liberal members are largely in revolt against the conscription measure of the Government even though it is a milder measure than is proposed either by the Progressive Conservatives or the C.C.F. One of the developments of yesterday was the way the latter party came forth for all out conscription.

C.C.F. Now Definite

It is not an unusual thing in the House of Commons for a party or a group to present an amendment and then when it is defeated vote for the main motion of the Government. That is not to happen on this occasion. The C.C.F. amendment to be voted on first will be defeated overwhelmingly; but on the motion of confidence in the Government their 10 members will line up against it.

The Progressive Conservative amendment, to be the subject of the second vote, will also be defeated. Then the Opposition party will be against the Government. While it is for the "vigorous war effort" it finds it not vigorous enough at present.

Thus two of the parties, Progressive Conservatives and C.C.F., are out definitely against the Administration. The Social Credit party with 10 members may support the Government since the national leader, Solon Low, who is here, is out with a statement that a general election now would be "criminal folly." Such an election would inevitably follow the defeat of the Government. It is not clear, however, whether Mr. Low speaks for his party as well as himself.

To Get Gratuities

"In connection with the matter of gratuities, under the War Service Grants Act, to which this personnel will be entitled; when this question was discussed in the House of Commons last week, both the Minister of Veterans' Affairs and the Minister of National Defence gave assurance of the Government's intention to make provision that all personnel proceeding overseas will receive the same treatment regarding gratuities payable in respect of their period of service overseas."

"The Minister of National Defence also stated that voluntary enlistments from the general public for service overseas continues at a satisfactory rate."

"As regards the N.R.M.A., he said the figures for the week ending Saturday Nov. 25, covering the men in N.R.M.A. units who had voluntarily assumed the obligation for service overseas, had increased to more than fourfold over the average weekly figures for October and the early part of November. The increases had been particularly evident in the returns from our French-speaking personnel."

Reinforcements Needed, Not an Election

An Editorial

PREMIER KING has confronted the country with the necessity of making a momentous decision. His determination to resign is not a threat but an imperative of the situation created by his critics. If he is forced to resign, a general election is inevitable—and an election now would delay the sending of reinforcements overseas, perhaps until too late. This is the decision the Canadian Parliament and people must make: Whether to throw the country into the turmoil of an election which would undoubtedly delay the sending of reinforcements, or send the reinforcements as arranged.

There can be only one answer to the problem here posed. The Canadians overseas must be reinforced by mid-January. Arrangements have been made to provide those reinforcements. Even if its critics succeeded in defeating the Government on the motion of confidence now before the House, they would be forced, if they took office, to pursue the plan the Government has already made. There is no alternative now. Colonel Ralston and General McNaughton are agreed that reinforcements can be provided not only from among the draftees, and if they are not provided from that source they will not be provided at all. Critics of the Government's policy must therefore assume the responsibility of suggesting some other course of action or speeding the course adopted so that, when the anticipated emergency arises, reinforcements will be there.

* * *

THE PRIME MINISTER put the matter succinctly toward the end of his moving speech yesterday:

"This House of Commons will have to express its views as to whether it is prepared to support the present Ministry in the carrying out of the provision of the Orders-in-Council which have been passed, to take the responsibility which will be theirs, with all the consequences of rejecting support to the present Administration, in the situation in Canada and in the world such as we have at the present time."

Later he summed up the prospect in perhaps the most important passage in his address:

"It will not help the Army to defeat the present Government and possibly force a general election. I will not take that responsibility. The Government and the former Minister of National Defence are agreed that the Army cannot wait for reinforcements for two or three months while the question of method is decided at the polls."

Mr. King thus neatly places his critics on the horns of a dilemma. Are they more interested in defeating the Government now than they are in getting reinforcements to the troops? That is the question they must answer, and the answer must be unmistakably clear.

With the Prime Minister's general argument in support of the action he has taken, we need not be concerned here. The country is so situated that no alternative government could take over. Mr. King should resign without dissolving the House. And if the House were dissolved and an election called, the very purpose of all this debate, in and out of the House, would be frustrated.

* * *

IT is regrettable that Major Power, in confirming his resignation as Minister for Air, thought it necessary to criticize General Eisenhower's policy of hitting the Germans hard and continuously. That statement injects an ugly note into a position which Major Power might have justified fully on other grounds. When he says that General Eisenhower's policy "instead of making for less casualties, might easily make for more," he begs the whole question. Such a policy was not alone General Eisenhower's. When Wendell Willkie visited General Montgomery in the desert, the great soldier said to him: "I tell you, Willkie, it's the only way we will defeat the Boches—give them no rest, give them no rest." In the desert that policy saved lives, and there is no reason why, if we continue to do our full share by keeping the Canadian Army overseas fully reinforced, it should not do so in Europe.

Again we suggest that the country's attention must not be diverted from the principal task before it. That task is to provide reinforcements for the overseas army and provide them when they are needed. Nothing less will do. And because the country has no workable alternative before it, we must go forward with the plan already made.

Power Outlines Reasons for Cabinet Resignation

By James A. Oastler
Star Staff Correspondent

OTTAWA, Nov. 28.—There was no need for conscription in this country, especially at this stage of the war when "by most authoritative accounts victory is certain," Hon. C. G. Power told members of the House of Commons yesterday in reciting his reasons for quitting the King Administration.

The Government had no right to tear the country apart by bringing in this measure at this stage of the war. Conscription might have been justified had D-Day been a catastrophe instead of a brilliant success but not otherwise.

Speaker Moves

Obviously moved by the reception he got from his former colleagues, the former Air Minister, himself a veteran of the last war, heard Premier King pay him a glowing tribute. The work he performed in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan alone would never be forgotten.

Mr. King opened proceedings at the afternoon sitting by announcing he had accepted the resignation of Mr. Power. Mr. Power took a seat next the Cabinet benches. The Prime Minister said that he had hoped to find it possible to persuade Mr. Power to reconsider his decision to resign but that this was not possible.

He then read an exchange of letters between Mr. Power and himself.

Mr. Power's letter to the Prime Minister was dated Nov. 23 and in it the former Minister said that he was unable to accept the policy which the Government had adopted with respect to the N.R.M.A. He did not believe that such a policy was necessary at this time and felt that it would not save one "single Canadian casualty."

His parting with Mr. Ralston on the issue came about only after mature consideration, largely on the grounds that the number of troops which he reported as being required was comparatively so small, that the means to remedy the situation without placing undue strain on the men at the front so readily available, and the end of the war so imminent, that weighing everything in the balance "we were not justified in provoking a national scission."

Not Acceptable

Mr. Power said also that he could not accept now from Gen. McNaughton a recommendation which he had felt obliged to reject when "made by an old comrade and tried associate, Layton Ralston."

In replying in a letter dated Nov. 27, Premier King said that he had felt in light of the importance of "the service which, as a member of the Government, you might have continued to render Canada's war effort would have outweighed the other considerations on which you felt it necessary to resign" would have caused him to reconsider.

He thanked Mr. Power warmly for his work and expressed his appreciation "of what your service in the ministry at a time of war has meant to this country and to the cause of freedom."

Hardly was the Prime Minister seated before Mr. Power was on his feet, a sheaf of papers in his hand. He asked permission of the House to say "a few words in clarification of the attitude" which he had taken.

His parting with the Prime Minister was in sorrow, not in anger. "I shall never forget and never regret the long years of our association."

Ties of Amity

As to his ex-colleagues, they were bound together by ties of amity and of friendship and he knew of no political differences which would break or bend those ties. He expressed thanks to the officers and men of the R.C.A.F. and the civilian employees. It was a privilege to serve with them in the "accomplishment of a great task."

As for Mr. Ralston: "No two men could have worked closer together than I and he. Our fortuitous association was cemented into a close and intimate friendship by years of intense labor and nights of anxiety. I am convinced that the course which my ex-colleague then embarked upon after the serious consideration was given by the House of honest, conscientious conviction."

When Mr. Ralston made his recommendation to the Cabinet, it was the duty of the Cabinet as a whole to deal with it. It was not the duty of the Cabinet to give consideration to recommendations of the Minister. The Cabinet has considered several days.



Hon. C. G. Power

Nov. 2, the Prime Minister announced that Gen. McNaughton had replaced Mr. Ralston. The former Minister could not accommodate himself to the views "of his colleagues and as an honorable man, and in pursuance of the doctrine of Cabinet solidarity, took the only course which was open to him."

The decision of the Cabinet has now been changed.

"I, for opposite reasons to Mr. Ralston, but following his example, am leaving the Cabinet also," Mr. Power went on.

Reasons Outlined

Then he proceeded to outline his reasons. The strategy of Gen. Eisenhower was to strike the enemy again and again and to give him no rest and no respite. In order to carry out that plan of war, reinforcements must be at hand to refill battalions and units within 24 hours after casualties occur.

"I think I should draw to the attention of the House and of the thousands of mothers, wives, sweethearts and dependents of those now in the front line that this repeated return to battle, instead of making for fewer casualties might very easily make for more."

Continuing, Mr. Power said that "no commander will take his experienced men out of the unit and undertake an engagement with only the newly-arrived, however well trained they might be. It seems to me that the logical thing, the reasonable thing, is to take the men out of the line temporarily to refit, re-equip, rest, recuperate and refill the gaps in their ranks."

From all counts the numbers required by the infantry, which was said to be threatened by the deficiency, was comparatively small. The lowering of the casualty rate by means of comparative or total inactivity would wipe out the margin of the deficit, if any existed, and restore the balance.

"Neither ultimate victory nor national honor require that Canadian troops should be in action every hour or every day," the former Minister of Air went on, "or even take part in every battle necessary to bring about final victory, especially when thousands of Europeans freshly freed from tyranny and the unspeakable terror of Nazi occupation, are panting for vengeance on the oppressor."

Prestige Established

Mr. Power said that it might be feared that the course he had suggested would lower the prestige and glory of Canada. "In my opinion glory and prestige has been forever established by the deeds of our fighting men in every service. It had been stated, he said, that casualties amongst some of our troops was not as high as that of some of our Allies. 'Surely this war is something more than a competition in casualties amongst the Allied nations.'"

He, too, had the interests of the men at the front.

He did not refer to his relations with the veterans of the last war "the records of this House of Commons during the past 27 years are there for all to see."

As to his attitude towards overseas forces, that was to be found in "the records of the department, the instructions given by him to the commanding officers of the R.C.A.F."

A.F. overseas, dealing with leave, repatriation and representations for relief from undue tours of duty.

If the course of systematic recuperation were taken, Mr. Power claimed, then the voluntary system which this country had been following, which "yielded more men last year than was ever estimated or even anticipated and which, in the words of the present Minister of National Defence has not failed, would have sufficed at this stage of the war, when by the most authoritative accounts victory is certain."

Conscription might be justified in times of crisis and in defence of one's country and in the discussion on Bill 80 in 1942 he said so. It might have been justified in certain periods and phases of this war "when we were on the brink of almost certain defeat. It might have been justified if D-day had been a smashing catastrophe instead of a brilliant success. But these days are past. We have no right to tear this country asunder at this stage and in this state of war."

Consequences Cited

As to the consequences of all this controversy, millions of honest, decent people in all parts of Canada and of all shades of opinion were now in the process of hating and reviling one another. Reason and sincere conviction had given way to hysteria on both sides. There was cleavage between classes and between races.

"But the most tragic thing of all is the weakening of faith and confidence in public men: not only in the people of one province but in all provinces, not only amongst those who hold one view but in men and women on all sides of this unfortunate debate."

Concluding, Mr. Power said that he held fast to the ideas of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in that he did not and could not believe that a Canadian could belong to one part of one province. He did not subscribe to any purely isolationist provincial standpoint. His hope and prayer was that with the advent of external victory and peace, peace and understanding might come within "our own country."

— THE MONTREAL DAILY STAR.

Bracken Says King Using Appeasement

Party Leader Stresses National Unity Need

OTTAWA, Nov. 28 — John Bracken, national leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, said last night that the policy whereby 16,000 home defence troops will be sent overseas in the next six months had been accepted by Prime Minister MacKenzie King and Defence Minister McNaughton "under circumstances which placed a heavy tax on our confidence in them."

Addressing a nomination convention of Ottawa West Progressive Conservative Association, Mr. Bracken said that Mr. King, "with the pistols of his conscriptionist ministers at his head," had turned again to a policy of appeasement.

Norman B. Macrostie was chosen the party's candidate in Ottawa West Riding. He defeated F. H. Plant, a former mayor of Ottawa and only other nominee, by 597 votes to 361. The sitting member is G. J. McIlraith, Liberal.

Charges Double-Talk

Mr. Bracken said in part: "The spectacle that has been before the country during the past few weeks, is known to you all. In viewing that spectacle, in witnessing the procession of twistings and turnings, and double talk and change of policy, can we be blamed for wondering whether having been so long the victims of one Government policy, we are now to become the dupes of another?"

"Here we have the leader of the Government and his Defence Minister coming to Parliament and saying to it: 'We propose carrying out this policy, we want you to entrust us with the carrying out of this policy — but we don't believe in it!' We invited you to approve of another policy. But we've had the gun put to our heads and overnight we've changed to a new hybrid policy. And now we want your approval of this new hybrid policy.' Does that add up to logic, or to common sense — or to common honesty? or to confidence in a government which is charged with the responsibility of running the war?"

"The answer — and it is the right answer — is that the leader of this Government has lost the trust of the best of his own Ministers, lost the respect of Parliament, and lost, irrevocably, the confidence of the country."

"If this Government Order-in-Council, with its provision for partial conscription be meant honestly, why is Colonel Ralston, the conscriptionist, kicked out and Gen. McNaughton, the anti-conscriptionist put in? The Prime Minister has dropped a tried and experienced administrator and taken on one he had dismissed but a few months before. If the colonel's policy and advice were right and the General's policy and advice were wrong, why isn't Colonel Ralston who recommended the new policy taken back into the cabinet to administer it and General McNaughton who advocated the wrong policy dismissed?"

"The answer we are bound to suspect is that this new device might well turn out to be but another political manoeuvre."

Questions Confidence

"I ask the people of this country to consider well the events of the past two weeks. To consider all the evasions and retreats, all the double-talk and double dealing. I ask them to read the correspondence between Mr. King and Colonel Ralston — with Colonel Ralston's unanswered charges of duplicity and bad faith. I ask them to consider whether in the light of such a sordid story—a record of cynical disregard for integrity without parallel in our public life — this Government deserves their confidence?"

"In answering that question let it be remembered that outgoing governments are judged by the results of their policies and not by their political promises."

"I say that the answer is 'NO'; that the people of Canada are not disposed to condone such discreditable transactions; that they are not prepared to endorse a course of such brazen expedience—I say that the Government has paraded openly its unfitness and its weakness, and that it has forfeited the trust of honest men."

"I say in short, that if this country is to have conscription to maintain its armies overseas, it should have it from a man or men who believe in conscription, and who can be trusted to enforce it honestly without fear or favor and without the continued farce of a two army system. Anything less at this time is at best a grave risk, and at worst invites danger of disaster."

"For more than 25 years, certain political leaders have taught a doctrine that has undermined Confederation with rotten timbers. It was the doctrine that only Liberals would keep young men out of uniform in time of war, and that only Conservatives would require all to share in the sacrifices of such a conflict."

Burden Unfair

"This doctrine had such a political appeal that many in other parties adopted the same tactics. As a result of that false doctrine the sons of some on the field of battle are paying a heavier price than need have been; as a result of that unfair burden the foundations of our national structure have been weakened as never before by disunity, the consequence of the folly of a party more concerned with its own interests than with the development of Canada as a united nation."

"This nation cannot stand divided, and it is divided; divided as never before since it was conceived; divided needlessly; divided deliberately; divided for a narrow purpose; divided at the risk of its future."

"The party I lead stands for Canadian unity. It has dedicated itself to the maintenance of Confederation, but Confederation cannot stand on rotten foundations. It can only stand on the basis of sound foundations."

"Canada can only be united by goodwill and understanding, and the union will only come when every basic condition of the nation accepts the basis of addition of equal responsibilities for all and equal sacrifices for all in time of war."

"No Canadian national party can deceive the majority of Canada and live for long — and the majority of Canada has been deceived. It has been toyed with in this war not for the nation's good but for the party's advantage. For that policy which, in human sacrifice, has borne unfairly on many parts of Canada, the government must accept the responsibility."

"Nor can any national party deceive any minority in Canada and live for long and minorities have been deceived, doubly deceived, de-

ceived when party politics promised there would be no expeditious force sent overseas and when promised there would be no compulsory service for overseas.

"The Government has sent expeditious forces overseas and it has brought in compulsory service by underhand methods when it said it wouldn't do either. Nor is that all? The boy whether born in Quebec or elsewhere who is conscripted into the home army finds himself looked down upon, denies a badge of honor, called a zombie made to feel the sense of inferiority even though he complies fully with the Government's demands."

Blame Placed

"For any stigma which may have fallen upon French-Canadians and others as a result of the Government's policy, the Government alone must bear full responsibility."

"There can be no national unity if any part of Canada is to be deceived. I have told our own Party we cannot temper our policies to political expediency for the sake of votes. And I have stated clearly in Quebec that our policies mean that every section of the nation must carry its just share of the burdens of war as well as of peace if Confederation is to stand."

"No other policy will win confidence. No other policy will restore faith in Canada. No other eventually will command support."

"The people of every Province respect frankness and fair dealing and above all they all want to feel that they are full partners in Canada. They all think of themselves as Canadians. Let us every Province recognize ourselves as such. Let us each carry his just share of responsibility and let us see that others carry theirs."

'We Have Dire Need For Reinforcements'

Below is an extract from a letter sent by a captain with the Canadian Armored Corps overseas to his wife, who is a resident of Toronto. At the wife's request the name of the officer is not being published. The date of the letter is Nov. 13, 1944.

"Cigs, food, etc., are priceless here.

"About the reinforcements, what the papers say is quite true. We see more of that now up here at the front, and it is common talk in all messes so anything said can be amplified much and no punches pulled. We are now a heterogeneous mass of nations and it is so true when reports say that we are without the majority vote in our own army.

"The paper reports are read with much interest by the whole mess. It means so much to get the news. . . .

"We have dire need for reinforcements no matter what you read in the papers to the contrary. About the men getting back who were over here first . . . the firemen and forestry corps are going home.

We cannot afford to let combatant troops leave. These words are very harsh for me to write, but they are the truth. The reinforcement problem is drastic. We must have them if we are to operate as an Army, let alone a Corps. . . .

"McNaughton is no longer a soldier. He is a politician and has left his army high and dry. . . . We have waited two weeks for reinforcements. We had tanks here but no men, and we still sit and wait. Don't tell me anything about reinforcements. When they come they know so little it seems a shame to send them into hell. The officers are terrible, and one always thinks twice about sending green ones to lead green ones. We bolster green with old sweat of 18 who have seen so much action and that is so hard on both.

"Will probably lose my rank, etc., if this is censored, but the C.O. writes beside me and those clippings have made much food for talk.

"I am well, I eat well, I am comfortable—I just want to get home, but I'm afraid that is not to be for some time. All Germany will be as difficult as Aachen."

THE GLOBE AND MAIL, TUESDAY, NOV. 28, 1944. 3

Listening to Mr. King Speak, Fournier Won't Talk on Rumor

Ottawa, Nov. 27 (CP).—Rumors continued to circulate on Parliament Hill today that Public Works Minister Fournier had either resigned or was thinking of resigning on the conscription issue.

Reporters, however, were unsuccessful in getting a statement from Mr. Fournier.

Newsmen this afternoon found Mr. Fournier standing out of sight behind the curtain at the rear of the Commons Chamber, with an ear

glued to an opening in the curtain listening to Prime Minister Mackenzie King's speech.

A page told him the press would like to see him, and he shook his head. Then a newsman beckoned and whispered that he would like a word with the Minister.

"I'm listening to this very important speech," Mr. Fournier whispered back, and renewed his position at the curtain.

Previously the Minister's private secretary had stated: "We still have no comment to make on the reports." Mr. Fournier is the member for the Quebec constituency of Hull.

There also were reports that Agriculture Minister Gardiner might resign, but when approached he said: "I have not resigned."

Likely Conscript Men In B.C., Few in Quebec

Ottawa, Nov. 27 (CP).—The Sept. 30 disposition of 26,000 operational Home Defense infantry from which most of the 16,000 men likely will be drawn for overseas reinforcements under the Government's partial conscription policy showed that Pacific Command had the most—17,900—and Quebec the least—200.

Figures released today by War-time Information Board's publication, "Canada at War," showed there was a total of 22,200 draftees of this category in Canada, and 3,800 in "adjacent territories"—in operational units.

Besides the total mentioned as being in the Pacific Command and

Quebec, there were 4,700 in the Maritimes, 2,200 in the Prairies and 1,500 in Ontario.

A comprehensive W.I.B. table broke down the effective draftee strength of 60,000 and showed the various stages of training of the total infantry potential of 42,000 men.

The table showed the districts where the men were serving Sept. 30, and not where they were enrolled. The figures were not adjusted for Quebec and Ontario military districts that overlapped in each Province.

Table showing disposition of the total 42,000 Infantry potential:

	Op. Units	Nonop. Units	Training Stream	Total
Ontario	1,300	2,300	3,900	7,500
Quebec	200	3,000	1,800	5,000
Maritimes	3,900	1,700	900	6,500
Prairies	1,900	700	900	3,500
Pacific Command	14,900	300	500	15,700
Total	22,200	8,000	8,000	38,200
Adjacent Territories	3,800	...	...	3,800
Grand total	26,000	8,000	8,000	42,000

Table showing disposition of the remainder:

	Op. Units	Nonop. Units	Training Stream	Others	Total
Ontario	200	2,100	1,600	300	4,200
Quebec .....	...	2,800	700	1,000	4,500
Maritimes .....	...	1,600	400	400	3,200
Prairies .....	...	600	400	200	1,500
Pacific Command	3,000	400	100	200	3,800
Total	4,300	7,500	3,200	2,200	17,200
Adjacent Territories ..	800	...	...	...	800
Grand total	5,100	7,500	3,200	2,200	18,000

'We Will Fight When Ottawa Does Right,' Coast Draftees Say

Prince George, B.C., Nov. 27 (CP).—A repetition of Saturday's parade through Prince George streets was staged just before noon today by approximately 500 home defense soldiers, some carrying placards. The parade was orderly and the men were in jovial mood.

Civilians hurried about their business and appeared to ignore the marchers. Provosts and Provincial Police kept close watch.

Placards read: "Win the War in Ottawa Before the War in Berlin," "Down With the Canadian Legion," "When Ottawa Does Right, We'll Fight" and "Conscript Wealth."

The parade lasted less than an hour and the men returned to barracks in army trucks.

Says Leadership Lacking

Meaford Nov. 27 (Special).—"We are facing possibly the greatest opportunity this country has ever had to return to a stable administration," said Garfield Case, Mayor of Owen Sound, and Progressive Conservative candidate, as he addressed the annual meeting of the North Grey Progressive Conservative Association.

"Demonstrations in Quebec City and Vernon, B.C., were brought about through lack of action on the part of the Government. Had Canada the leadership of Churchill the present condition would not exist today," he asserted. "In 1942 we gave the Government a new man-

date by a plebiscite. The people have been denied that which they sought in the Government. No one likes conscription. It is most seriously disliked in Quebec. There should have been total mobilization. The damage was done the day two armies were formed. Canada is the only country with such a condition. It has been a great injustice to 75,000 young men."

Ralston Stand Endorsed

St. Thomas, Nov. 27 (Special).—The Federation of Imperial Veterans in Ontario fully endorse the action taken by Hon. J. L. Ralston, and heartily congratulating him on his stand in connection with reinforcements for overseas, it was announced today by Secretary John Tinling, here. The members are "pleased to see that through his efforts, men fighting overseas will now be assured of some assistance and necessary relief," Mr. Tinling added.

Draftees Will Be Welcome

Kitchener, Nov. 27 (Special).—"Zombies" will be welcomed by Canadian service men overseas, according to Tpr. W. E. Mills of Kitchener, who has just returned from service with a tank corps in Italy. "We need reinforcements badly," he said. "The boys were kept going day and night, and were pretty tired. The Zombies will sure help a lot."

The High Price of Unity

Benjamin Franklin told that when he was a boy he gave all the money he had for a whistle, without stopping to inquire its price. In his later years he frequently quoted his experience and always advised his hearers, "Don't pay too much for your whistle." We Canadians are presently buying a whistle called "National Unity," and it might be advisable to examine the price that is being demanded for the article.

Since one of our boys was killed serving with the RCAF, we have been tabulating the casualties suffered by that force. Only the names of men listed as killed or missing on active service overseas are counted. No record was kept of losses in Canada:

Casualties from all Canada, excluding the Province of Quebec, 7,732; casualties from Quebec Province, 742; casualties from U.S.A., 351.

The home address of the man was taken from the official list in every case.

Another "Breakdown"

In a booklet written by a French-Canadian, Mr. Leo Cadieux, the statement is made that 80 per cent of the population of Quebec is French-Canadian. Now let us break down the total from the Province of Quebec:

Casualties with names of undoubted English origin, 433; cas-

ualties with names of French-Canadian origin, or doubtful, 249.

To make up the French-Canadian total every name of doubtful origin was put in their column—such names as Koivu, Storen, Olsson, Nevin, Krampe, Schimmens, Elsigser, Fullam, Brosko, Schuyer, Di Pesa, Vokey, Kons, Ingalls, and Gabreelski.

Now let us look at the ratio of these losses:

One casualty from the 80 per cent French-Canadian majority.

Two casualties from the 20 per cent English-speaking minority.

One casualty from French-Canadian Quebec.

Thirty-one casualties from English-speaking Canada.

It may be noted that more American airmen gave their lives in defense of Canada than French-Canadians from Quebec.

The Price Paid

This, then, is part, and only part, of the ghastly price that we are asked to pay for this illusion called "National Unity." Lincoln had the same problem to face; he could have bought national unity, but the price asked was human slavery, and he refused to pay. Humanity is still applauding his decision.

Franklin admitted that he paid too much for his whistle, but he had something to show for his money.

English-speaking Canada is paying an exorbitant price in the blood of its finest sons for a non-existent whistle.

A. E. Challis, Lillian Challis.

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The subject who is truly loyal to the Chief
Magistrate will neither advise nor submit to
arbitrary measures.—JUNIUS.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1944.

The Lowest Yet

The calloused political manoeuvring which created the conscription crisis has brought this nation all the humiliation a too-tolerant people should be expected to bear. Yesterday former Air Minister Power went to despicable lengths to add to the burden. Of all the excuses blame-worthy Ministers have used in defense of themselves there has been nothing so degrading as his brutal and unjust attack on Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allied Armies in Western Europe.

This newspaper has never begrudged Mr. Power praise for his work at the Air Ministry. It withdraws nothing of what has been said in tribute to his efforts. That is part of his record of service, and within that frame it stands unchallenged. But neither has The Globe and Mail attributed the stature of statesmanship to him. In common with other newspapers, it has been tolerant to the point of charity in subordinating his faults and weaknesses to the overall judgment of performance in office.

But public men must be dealt with according to their actions. Sometimes it is impossible to be both charitable and honest. Mr. Power no doubt is sincere in his parochial view on conscription. He is entitled to his view. We respect it, if on no other grounds than his record as a soldier in the last war. Perhaps Mr. Power will have some respect for the views of others. His service in the last war or his political position in this does not qualify him as the military superior of the generals conducting the Allied offensive.

Mr. Power sought to justify his own position by implying that the Canadian Army was short of reinforcements because Gen. Eisenhower had wasted lives in carrying out the Western offensive. In criticizing the Eisenhower plan he declared:

I think I should draw to the attention of the House, and to thousands of mothers, wives, sweethearts and dependents of those now in the front line, that this repeated return to battle, instead of making for less casualties among their loved ones, might very easily make for more. No commander will take experienced men out of the unit and undertake an engagement with only the newly arrived, however well trained they may be.

As a parish politician, Mr. Power is a master of the use of the knee and elbow. Both are out of place in the present issue. Certainly their use cannot be justified as Mr. Power used them on the Allied Commander, who has won the admiration and affection of the Allied world for his masterful integration and co-ordination of the diverse United Nations forces. It was still more cowardly to attack at this distance and under circumstances which prevent the general from defending himself.

The issue which this nation faces and on which Mr. Power quit the Ministry is entirely local. It is Canadian from start to finish, created by a Government which placed politics first, and was supported by Mr. Power in that policy. That Canada has not been able to maintain her forces in the field and reinforce them is not the blame of the men who fight in that army, but the men who built it. This Mr. Power knows as well as any member of the Government.

It was the Government which with the advice and co-operation of the new Defense, Mr. McNaughton, built the great Canadian Army. It was created for the purpose of providing military prestige, but primarily to prove that Canada could field a greater force by the voluntary system than she had been able to do by that method and conscription in the last war. It was designed to override the criticism of Government policy, and largely because the Canadian forces were not engaged for three and a half years of fighting, the take was not exposed.

Will Investigate Parade Of Draftees at Ottawa

Ottawa, Nov. 28 (CP).—A Defense Department spokesman said today an investigation was being made into an anti-conscription parade here last night by a group of Home Defense troops variously estimated to number 50 to 100 men.

It was understood the men all were employed at the base postoffice, and that all were at their work today.

The parade, which was reported marked by a few scuffles between Home Defense and active service troops and civilians, was broken up on a Bank St. within a few blocks of its starting point at Lansdowne Park district depot.

The demonstrators broke up when city police squad cars, army provost cars and members of the naval shore patrol converged on the scene.

Lansdowne Park district depot is a "clearing depot" and officers said most of the men there are newly drafted from civilian life, without military training of any kind, and awaiting assignment to basic training camps. They are men drafted from this area and sent to Lansdowne Park from Kingston, Ont., where they received their medical examination.

"No Election—Victory First"

Montreal, Nov. 28 (CP).—A group of seven French-Canadian labor leaders in a joint statement today urged their compatriots to join them "in a concerted effort to state the true sentiment of French Canada" with the motto: "No election—Victory first."

The labor leaders represent unions affiliated to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and the Canadian Congress of Labor.

The statement said the "Tories"

were the originators of a "hated campaign" against French Canada with the sole purpose being to precipitate an election and "prevent, in the immediate postwar period, the enacting of a program of social reconstruction."

False Patriots

"As in 1911, Imperialist reaction finds in this Province false patriots who stand ready to become their allies," the statement said.

"Faced with this political manoeuvre, we have but one duty: support a Government which alone, in the present circumstances, can save national unity and prevent anti-French elements from taking over with as their sole purpose to keep Quebec in bondage and crush organized labor in Canada."

In a telegram sent to Prime Minister Mackenzie King, Defense Minister McNaughton and Fred Rose, Labor-Progressive member of Parliament for Montreal Cartier, officials of the Canadian Seamen's Union said:

"We stand 100 per cent for full national unity, for victory over Hitlerism and resent Tory attempts to split the country on the phony Zomble question."

Names of Leaders

The seven labor leaders who issued the joint statement were Jean Pare, business agent, Aircraft Lodge 712, International Association of Machinists (A.F.L.); Marcel Laviole, secretary, Local 214 of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees (C.C.L.); Madeleine Parent, organizer of United Textile Workers of America (C.C.L.); Romeo Thivierge, president, and Roland Souliere, secretary-treasurer, of Local 235, International Union of Tobacco Workers (A.F.L.); Adrien Villeneuve, representing the grand lodge of the International Association of Machinists, and Rene Walsh, secretary-treasurer, Local 271 and 373, of the International Union of Boilermakers (A.F.L.).

Recheck Medically

London, Ont., Nov. 28 (CP).—A medical recheck of NRMA personnel in Military District No. 1 now is being conducted, it was announced today at district headquarters.

Detroit Comment

Detroit, Nov. 28 (CP).—The Detroit Free Press said today in an editorial that, "the effect of Prime Minister King's political somersault over the question of conscription for overseas service remains to be seen."

"At first glance," it continued, "the action of the Liberal Cabinet would suggest that it has weakened itself to the point where it was about to fall. A closer examination of the situation, however, reveals that King may have successfully handled the one problem which might have caused him to step down. There are many competent observers who feel that the Prime Minister will receive the support he seeks when the question is brought before the House."

Betrayal of Interests

Montreal, Nov. 28 (CP).—The executive board of Aircraft Lodge 712, International Association of Machinists (A.F.L.) said today that "we still believe that the voluntary system (of reinforcements) is best, and we believe that to have raised the conscription issue at this time was a betrayal of the interests of our country and of our boys overseas."

The board, which said it represented almost 20,000 Montreal aircraft workers, said that "our people have been made the victims of a well-planned and vicious campaign of slander, the real purpose of which is to split Canada and put the reactionary Tories in power."

"The people of Quebec have proved at the battlefield and on the production line that they stand for victory in the war. The workers of Quebec refuse to be robbed of the fruits of victory at this late hour by the cheap political trickery of the Tories. . . ."

Newspapers which The Globe and Mail questioned the wisdom of this elaborate army establishment as overreaching the nation's manpower resources were set upon by Government spokesmen for playing politics. Though repeatedly accused of forcing the conscription issue, this newspaper argued that the great eight-division army, even with conscription, could not be maintained. It pleaded for a strong, effective army corps which could be maintained through sustained action for the duration.

As Air Minister Mr. Power was competing with the army for manpower. He knew, or ought to have known, what the manpower situation was. If he did, he never said so. Instead he sat silent throughout, giving his name and his support to the sham. Having been a whole lot less than frank and honest with the Canadian people then, why should Mr. Power suddenly decide to talk at the expense of Gen. Eisenhower?

Well the Canadian people might ask if there is no depth to which their politicians will not go in defense of their own mistakes. As we have said, Mr. Power is entitled to his own views on the conscription issue. That way lies his livelihood. For the real reason for Mr. Power's departure from the Cabinet and his continuance with the party—a strange compromise indeed—we prefer to look past his contemptible statement to his letter of resignation. From that it is clear he could not serve under the Hon. Mr. McNaughton. Apart from personal feelings toward the new Minister is the important fact that he would not play junior to the newcomer.

The Crisis Is Mr. King's Doing

The speech delivered by Prime Minister King on Monday in the House of Commons was awaited with some hope that it would clarify the circumstances which led him to summon a special session. It has done this in part by reaffirming what most people have come to believe: that making political strategy a major objective in wartime is extremely dangerous practice. Mr. King, the master politician, revealed that he found himself in such tight corners on more than one occasion that he would gladly have thrown up the sponge if only one of his own trusted colleagues would take over the job. In his desperation he clung to party first, until reaching the final conclusion that anarchy was the only alternative to his kind of leadership.

His speech cannot be passed over with feelings of pity, as it might be if the issues were of little consequence and the times of little moment. But when he pleads for sympathy, threatens to resign, declares that his resignation would be a national calamity, avers that no one else in sight is competent to administer affairs, holds the big stick over his followers and attempts to escape responsibility from the results of political trickery by handing it over to a brief Parliamentary session, it is well to recall that for five years the Prime Minister has run things to suit himself and given Parliament little to contemplate but his attitude of contempt.

The crises his Government has gone through are of his own making. Today's crisis is his. The troubles that beset the country are his production. He is the architect of them all, built them brick by brick, not over a period of five years alone, but of twenty-five. He is the man who created what disunity there is between Quebec and the rest of the country. He and his colleagues sowed the seeds of dissension and cultivated them into votes. He is the one most entitled to reap the harvest. Unfortunately the country he misrepresented has to pay.

While professing concern for the nation, his anxiety was for his Cabinet and himself. "The problem was to find some way to prevent a complete breakup of the Government," he said. And when Ministers threatened to resign: "I thought where would this country be if one Minister after another who has carried a great part of the responsibility for the war effort were to leave the Cabinet and I were left to carry on alone." "I would certainly have had to resign if I could not carry on." "Resignation almost certainly would be followed by dissolution." "If an election had been held at this time . . . can you imagine anything more cruel?" And again: "If I cannot get enough support out of my own party, to feel sure that the men of my own party are behind me, then my resignation will go to the Governor-General." Further: "If I had to resign I would have to recommend some one to form a Government . . . would his Excellency feel that I was justified in making such a recommendation?"

What is all this about? His Government, his administration, his leadership. Without him there would be anarchy, and nevertheless he threatens to let this anarchy have its swing unless the House of Commons rallies to his support.

He blames the press and the Canadian Legion for not letting Hon. Mr. McNaughton's appeal for volunteers have a chance—the last-minute bid for more time. What the press and the Canadian Legion did was to tell Mr. King during the last three years that if he did not change from party service to war service he would bring trouble to the country. He talked

of the danger of disunity instead of the danger of leaving gallant volunteers without sufficient reinforcements. It was always disunity, and he sees the result in a crisis he would gladly escape.

The simple truth is that the Prime Minister is in his present predicament, and disunity is a greater danger than ever, because he failed to ask himself: What is the right thing to do? The right thing to win the war and keep the army strong, not the right thing to ensure votes. The Canadian people are not simpletons. They are high-minded. The great things accomplished in this war are theirs. Had Mr. King and his Administration placed right before party and its might, kept the noble ideal before the public, we believe no section of this country would have failed to respond to the leadership. Neglect to do this has brought on all his present troubles.

Col. Ralston's Responsibilities

Prime Minister King made quite a story of his offer to step out of the Premiership in favor of Col. Ralston or any other member of the Cabinet. Well 'embellished in the telling, the gesture was about the frailest part of Mr. King's three-hour appeal to his followers on Monday. But it was not dragged in for dramatic effect or self-glorification alone.

The obvious purpose was to expose Col. Ralston to his fellow-members as a lesser man than their Leader. It was meant to establish that the former Defense Minister had not the courage of his convictions and shrank from assuming responsibilities which he insisted the Prime Minister should assume.

It was a strange revelation to come from one who had recently and publicly lectured the former Defense Minister on the sanctity of Cabinet secrets. Certainly it was a Cabinet secret which he disclosed. To this extent he succeeded in establishing himself as a man apart, one knowing only the law of convenience. But it does not require wide schooling in politics to detect the hollowness of the great gesture.

Col. Ralston, or any other Minister, had every reason for refusing to take up the challenge, if that is what it was. The secrecy of Cabinet Council was not the place for the Prime Minister

to step aside. It is not his privilege to raffle off the Premiership. Had he been sincere in his gesture, Mr. King would have called the party into caucus and made his offer against the background of all relevant facts.

In reality, Mr. King could not have offered the leadership of the Government, for the Government was then divided. It was divided on the very issue separating the Prime Minister and his former Defense Minister. Col. Ralston has charged it did not consider itself committed by Mr. King's pledge of conscription if necessary, and, indeed, could not agree on the meaning of "necessary."

On the question of responsibility, however, Mr. King made a point which is both just and binding. "It is very easy, may I say, to criticize the Government and to put up opposite policy," he said, "but unless men are prepared to back those policies by taking a responsible position and carrying them out they have no right to leave a Ministry in a condition where the whole structure is almost certain to collapse. . . ."

There is no doubt at whom this was directed. It is a fair definition of Col. Ralston's responsibilities in the House of Commons. But as censure of his actions, it prejudices his intentions. Beyond an expressed desire to retire from public life, there has been no evidence that Col. Ralston is not prepared to take a responsible position. None that he has retreated from the position he took as a Cabinet Minister.

Looking back, the crisis had its origin in Major Conn Smythe's charges of poorly trained and inadequate reinforcements in France. They came from a source the Government could not ignore. Defense Minister Ralston did not deny their accuracy. Instead he went to see for himself, and, having seen, called for conscription of the draftees. His correspondence with the Prime Minister revealed his actions were based on his duty to the men he served and for whom he was responsible.

In this sense it was Col. Ralston who created the crisis. Until actions demonstrate otherwise, it is only fair to assume that he will stand up to the Prime Minister's challenge, even though that means abandonment of his desire to return to private life. Having acted at the command of conscience, having forced the issue with the Government, having brought the country into the tumult of an extreme political upheaval, it would be unreasonable to presume he would seek to evade responsibility now.

Col. Ralston must realize better than any one else that his duty is even greater now than it was a month ago. If the welfare of the men overseas is his foremost consideration, and we believe it is, he cannot be unmindful of the effects of the crisis, of the shock of Government action, on the morale of those men. His first responsibility was and still is to them. And for this reason the full burden of leadership rests on him, and must rest on him until we can face Canadians overseas with a decent and honorable solution.

DRAFTEES

Armed Violence Threat Holds Unit in Camp

Terrace, B.C., Nov. 28 (CP).—A regiment of NRMA Infantry from Saskatchewan, on draft for service overseas and due to leave Terrace, remained in camp late today under a threat of armed violence by striking Home Defense troops.

The striking troops were classed as mutineers, it was understood, since they interfered with other troops in the performance of their duty.

No official announcement had been made on the matter up to mid-afternoon.

A waiting troop train stood idle on a siding and the drafted soldiers remained at their camps.

Threats Used

Threats and intimidation are being used by leaders of the recalcitrant Home Defense troops here to keep less fervent members in line, enquiries among the men disclosed today.

One soldier told a reporter that although he was taking part in the demonstration he was not quite sure what the root of the trouble was.

"Our regiment arrived here the day before yesterday," he said. "Men of a regiment that was due to leave Terrace on draft today have been told by other Home Defense men that if they prepare to leave they will be shot at. They mean it, too, and they have plenty of ammunition. I think that there is going to be serious trouble here."

Wouldn't Listen to Officer

Another soldier, carrying a rifle over his shoulder, said that he had just attended a meeting attended by most of the Home Defense troops. He said that an officer had tried to address the meeting, but the men refused to listen to him and had broken up into small groups and returned to their various camps.

This soldier said that the men were demanding "total conscription," but did not elaborate on the point.

The attitude of the men as they marched from camp to camp was described as one of "apparent good nature." Some of the men carried rifles and others had Bren guns.

French-Canadian Unit

The body of concerted opinion favoring the disobedience movement is nourished by members of a French-Canadian unit which other soldiers say have ammunition and the disposition to use it.

"We have ammunition, too," said a member of the drafted unit, "but I wish we didn't. The way things are now it would be too easy to start bloodshed."

Personnel of the RCAF at Terrace are confined to barracks.

Inquiries Under Way

Vancouver, Nov. 28 (CP).—Disturbances in Terrace again today broke out as military inquiries were started in all six British Columbia camps, where anti-conscription demonstrations have occurred since last Saturday.

This afternoon 300 soldiers of a French-Canadian unit left their camp on Terrace's north side, and walked to the camp of an English-speaking unit at the other end of

town. Most of the men carried rifles and wore steel helmets.

An hour later approximately 100 men carrying rifles and shotguns left the second camp and marched in ragged formation to a third camp at the east end of Terrace. They were accompanied by a truck, which was believed to have been commandeered.

Men of the only French-Canadian unit involved in the strike which started Saturday continued their refusal to perform other than ordinary duties.

They said they were replying to their request to be sent to their Quebec homes.

Bombs Too Dangerous

At one time Monday afternoon at Terrace took bangles and mortar bombs from stores, but soon returned to being "too dangerous to handle."

A Terrace headquarter man said demonstration allowed to continue if there was no injury to civilians or property.

Reports said pay and allowances of demonstrators have been cut, but no confirmation was given. Pacific Command officers did not consider such a charge would have any effect and certain other forms of discipline were applied with before such action.

Will Study Findings

The military investigation opened today are being handled by camp staffs at Vernon, Kamloops, Courtenay, Nanaimo, George and Terrace. Findings will be studied by headquarters at Prince Rupert by Pacific Command. They will then go to Ottawa, where they will be sent back to the camps through headquarters Command.

Among matters to be investigated are flag mutilation at Prince Rupert, injury to two N.C.O.'s during a street scuffle; with recruiting signs at Terrace, and striking an officer at Vernon.

Section 7, King's Regulations, dealing with mutiny and insubordination, has been read to all home guards in the camps.

Power 'Threatened' With Politics

Montreal, Nov. 28 (CP).—C. G. Power, who resigned last week as Air Minister, is en route to Montreal through Montreal today en route to his home at St. Pache, Co., Que., where he is engaged in a recent operation.

Mr. Power, member of the House of Commons since 1917, said "through with politics" and that he would practice law in Montreal. He had practiced law in Quebec

Artillery Unit Becomes Infantry

Of late I have been following your editorials regarding the reinforcement question and our "Zombie" army. I have also read with interest many of the letters you have published from others who are in different ways concerned over the present deplorable situation. To add to the many discrepancies that have been shown to the public through your editorial page I have a few facts at my disposal that I am sure many will be interested in reading.

My information comes partly from friends of mine who are now serving in both Italy and on the Western front. One lad, who is in Italy, was placed in a low category because of an ankle injury; and was, as is the rule, returned to a base depot. This is similar to the procedure used in Canada, where low category men are returned to district depots and placed in sedentary employment. But not so with this lad. In no time at all, injured ankle and all, he was posted out to a front-line unit, with which he is now serving; although in his latest letter he says that the damp weather is causing his ankle to bother him considerably.

Artillery Becomes Infantry

From the Western front another friend of mine, who is with a divisional headquarters, says that they are all following the result of Major Smythe's disclosures very closely. To use his own words, "If they asked me about the reinforcement question I would give them a blast that would lift the top off the Empire State Building." In reply to my asking him how my old outfit was making out, he informed me that it was now being used as infantry. That particular unit was an anti-aircraft unit with which I trained in Canada, and which was stationed on the south coast of England on anti-aircraft duties until the invasion. That news I found astounding.

ing, this unit having served as an artillery unit since 1941.

Now we have the announcement that a survey will be made of all personnel serving in Canada who are general service personnel, and in overseas categories. The announcement says that nearly 1,000 such men are available in National Defense Headquarters at Ottawa alone. No doubt that statement is in a way true. But, here is the rub: For several years now only low category general service men have been placed in positions not only at National Defense Headquarters, but in all home war establishments in Canada. That means that these 1,000 men at National Defense Headquarters are all men who have been there for three or four years, some since and before war was declared; and all of these men are non-commissioned officers and warrant officers, absolutely untrained, with the possible exception of basic training. This I know, having been stationed at National Defense Headquarters last year at this time. To what end will it serve to send these men overseas, even after advance training? Front-line units do not want sergeants and sergeant-majors who are without any battle experience to lead their men into battle. If these men are sent overseas they can only be used in England to relieve men who are in low categories, and deserving to be returned to Canada after two, three and four years of service overseas.

"Zombies" Still Here

So we have another incident showing us how our present Government is trying to hoodwink us, while our fighting soldiers are being kept in the front lines and not given proper relief. But, we still have our "Zombie" army with us, eating up thousands of the taxpayers' dollars every day to absolutely no avail. What a slap in the face for our fighting soldiers, men who are fighting and living in the cold waters of Italy and Holland, while the "Zombies" are working and living in comfort at home.

Toronto. J. W. Boyd.

M.P.'s Are Expected To Explain Attitude

It seems terrible that Canadians are always divided on national issues. For years our political parties have attempted to delude the people of Quebec that their rights were threatened, so that in turn the political parties could pose as champions of the Quebec people and thus reap the harvest of the Quebec vote.

Fortunately during the present session of Parliament Canadians are going to have the opportunity of seeing whether we should blame the people of Quebec for this mess or whether our political parties are to blame, for each elected member will, before the session is over, probably have the opportunity of proving to the people who elected him back home whether he is voting for party and champion of so-called Quebec rights or whether he is voting for the rights of the people who elected him.

A defeat of the Government at this point would not be a national disaster, since we are to have a general election in the near future in any case. Robert H. More, Montreal.

In Parliament

(From Hansard—November 24, '44)

Hon. R. B. Hanson (Prog. Cons., York-Sunbury, N.B.): Are they not told that if they do not volunteer they will get no rehabilitation grant, and is not each commanding officer instructed to tell them that individually?

Hon. A. G. L. McNaughton (Minister of National Defence): No, sir.

Mr. Hanson: That is the information I have, that orders went out from your department to the D.O.C. of every district, that the commanding officer of every unit shall interview each individual personally, not through N.C.O.'s or otherwise, and tell them among other things that if they do not volunteer, there will be no rehabilitation grant. That is the information I have from my part of the country.

Hon. I. A. Mackenzie (Minister of Veterans' Affairs): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Hanson: I do not want an answer from the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie) but from General McNaughton.

Mr. Mackenzie: That story is a complete untruth.

Mr. Hanson: Call it what you like, but I asked General McNaughton a question and I do not want an answer from a flannel-mouth like the hon. member for Vancouver Centre.

Mr. J. G. Ross (Liberal, Moose Jaw, Sask.): On a point of order, the Hon. gentleman has no right to call any minister a flannel-mouth.

Mr. Hanson: I will substitute another designation; I will substitute the word "bluffer".

Mr. Mackenzie: I am going to ignore the observations of the hon. member, but I would say—

Mr. Hanson: I rise to a point of order. We are questioning General McNaughton here and my question is directed to him. I want an answer from him.

Mr. Mackenzie: I have been responsible for the preparation of the rehabilitation legislation for the last five years. I am conversant with it and I should have the right to answer any question directed to the subject of rehabilitation.

Mr. Hanson: I want my point of order. I asked General McNaughton a question with respect to directions given through the Department of National Defence to officers commanding, and irrespective of what the legislation is, or of any minister in charge of it, I want to know whether the information I have is correct. I believe it is.

Mr. Mackenzie: It is not correct. Mr. Hanson: It is stated in the province of New Brunswick that these men are to be interviewed by the officer commanding in every unit and he is to tell them that if they do not volunteer they will not get any rehabilitation. It will not be howled down by any flannel-mouths or by anybody else.

Mr. Speaker: On the point of order, the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Hanson) asked a question of General McNaughton and the Minister of Veterans' Affairs (Mr. Mackenzie) proposes to answer. In the course of this whole discussion yesterday and today there have been questions asked of General McNaughton with which naturally he was not conversant and they have been answered by the Prime Minister and others. I see no objection to an answer being given to satisfy the questioner with the true facts of the case if they lie within the office of the department of the minister who now proposes to answer.



ON THIN ICE

The 'Valley of Humiliation'

As a loyal Canadian stationed in New York, engaged in an important war mission, the writer finds himself hard put-to-it to explain why Canada has been plunged into the "Valley of Humiliation."

Our history records no greater tragic farce than the assembly of the Canadian Parliament only to be asked for a vote of confidence on the passing of an Order-in-Council which it had already fully authorized, and which, in any case, under our system of responsible government, is clearly the responsibility of his Majesty's Ministers. If the lives of our men and the honor of Canada were not being played with as stakes it would be merely an expensive comedy.

In the eyes of the American and British people, who adopted universal conscription from the start, the delay involved and the small number of men to be sent make this action entirely beyond comprehension.

One hesitates to admit that Canada, in this crisis, has at the head of her Government a man who is so utterly out of touch with the realities of this day that he continues to play petty party politics at such appalling costs.

The Game Obvious

The game being played by Premier King is so transparent that it is a gross insult to the intelligence of the Canadian people. Obviously, it is nothing but a play for time for his party against the urgent needs of our men in the field. It only remained for Gen. McNaughton to let it slip before the House that they

did not intend to send any of this paltry 16,000 conscripted men into battle before next May at the earliest. By that time it is no doubt believed that the war in Europe may be over or that the general election would have been held and the party would have had the advantage of this duplicity. To placate one group, he would undertake a compromise conscription measure, pregnant with the seeds of discord for the members of the so-called Home Defense Army, while to please another misled group he would hold these presumptive reinforcements out of battle. We can thank Gen. McNaughton for letting the cat out of the bag. Mr. King has had no change of heart. He is merely staying in the game, playing the same old cards in defiance of overwhelming popular demand.

Some years ago Premier King admitted that his party, through a notorious scandal, was in the "Valley of Humiliation," and now he drags the good name of Canada into the Valley of Humiliation.

How long—oh! how long—must this farce go on?

Gordon Austin.

New York, N.Y.

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If we find not repose in ourselves it is in vain to seek it elsewhere.
—From the French.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29.

"WE'VE GOT TO MEAN IT", COL. RALSTON.

Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King has himself put the question up to his Cabinet, to Parliament and to the Canadian people. He asks for continued support of his leadership on the ground that there is no one else prepared to take his place, and with the further suggestion that if anyone else should replace him the result might well be nothing less than anarchy.

With this assumption of his own indispensability, he has paraded his own opinions as to the matter of compulsory overseas service. He is as much opposed to conscription now as he has ever been. He will not admit that any need for reinforcements overseas required the introduction of the measure now. It is, he specifically declares, only the tactics of the conscriptionists which have forced this measure upon the country, and have forced him to yield to it. He has undergone no change of conviction, but has merely given way before external pressure, especially as manifested in his own Cabinet.

Even as it is, he has tried with all his strength—even with a "passionate appeal" to his Cabinet—to reduce conscription to its lowest possible dimensions. In short, Mr. King is asking that he be supported as the administrator of a policy with which he bitterly disagrees in principle, and which he believes to have been made necessary only by an organized unrest which, he is sure, will one day be exposed and condemned.

It is certainly of interest to note that the determined will of the majority of the Canadian people—the unrest to which Mr. King refers—has prevailed in some measure over the Prime Minister's resistance, the tenacity of which he now more fully discloses. But this achievement—important as it is—still leaves the situation in a state essentially unsatisfactory. For though Mr. King has yielded, he has yielded under protest, and he is clearly to continue to protest against the policy which he is now to administer. If such leadership continues, the fundamental and primary problem will remain unsettled as long as the war lasts. The people and their Prime Minister will be engaged in a concentrated and unrelenting struggle, always watching, always suspecting, and never confident, never really assured. Is this the sort of leadership we are really under the necessity of accepting?

Certainly, if there is any other man to whom the people look at this time to provide them with a leadership nearer to their needs than man is Col. J. L. Ralston. Upon Col. Ralston the eyes of the people are turned. He, more than any other figure in Parliament, is the symbol of the present issue. He has shown courage both in the last war and in this. He has a longer and closer acquaintance with the direction of national defence than anyone else. He has declared that we cannot, in fairness to the fighting men, calculate our support on hair-splitting chances. He has himself seen the magnificent scope and achievement of the Canadian effort in this war, and he has seen, too, the sufferings and the casualties and the depleted reinforcement pools. He has declared, in a public address in this city, that we must back up our fighting men until victory is won, and that "we can't just say it, we've got to mean it."

The very substance and strength of the instinctive appeal made to Col. Ralston at this time is that it is an appeal which is above party. Its weight and poignancy he cannot but feel. It is nothing less than the plea of the people that he give final decisive leadership to that very war effort to which they have committed the lives of their sons. If Col. Ralston should respond to this exacting but unquestioned call to service, and should endeavor to enlist the allegiance of those who share his views, then he should receive a full and heart-given support in accordance with his service. Under such leadership for such a purpose, the party divisions should cease, and from the Opposition he should have the backing of loyal citizens.

There may be some who have been made hesitant over a change of leadership because the Prime Minister has so insistently warned that such a change might precipitate an election and that an election would delay the active prosecution of the war and would endanger the lives of the men at the front. This warning should be understood for what it is and accordingly dismissed. An election, if such should be found necessary, would not delay the war effort. Australia and New Zealand have both had wartime elections—the election in Australia being held at a time when the Japanese were at its borders. The United States has just had an election. While American citizens decided their leadership at the polls, their armed forces swept forward to the attack and won some of their greatest victories.

The machinery of government would not be suspended while a general election was held. The reinforcements would be despatched overseas and the whole business of war-waging would go on. Indeed, it is to be hoped that under more sincere and vigorous leadership it would go on with a determination and a consistency not found at present.

It is to be hoped that Col. Ralston will not turn aside from the opportunity and duty of this hour. It is true that he is not a Parliamentarian by profession, but left an outstanding legal practice to take public office as a wartime service. But that service is not ended. Now, as never before, the need has deepened. He must hear the penetrating appeal from the ordinary family people across this country to give them the assurance they are asking—and are asking not for themselves.

Let Col. Ralston respond. And if not Col. Ralston, then let some other come forward to meet the unsatisfied need of the people in this last severe time of their anxiety. But let there be an end to the disheartening spectacle of obstructive evasion in the face of a human need which is at once so urgent and so clear.

"ZOMBIE" TERM SHOULD BE ERASED.

Not the least of the benefits that would accrue from extension to logical, practical completeness of the Government's limited conscription for overseas, would be to wipe out any remaining basis in fact for that derisive term of "zombie" which has been applied to Home Defence troops.

As it is, the Government is applying selective, discriminatory conscription, and leaving a large body of around 44,000 men in circumstances and with a status exactly the same as those which gave rise to the term in popular usage. Finally forced to realization that overseas reinforcements cannot be maintained without the compulsory despatch of draftees, the Government has held back from a clear-cut abolition of the limiting "home defence only" distinction covering call-up troops. All it has done is to tag 16,000 men who happen to have been assigned to the infantry and to have completed their training or nearly so.

This is, of course, the obvious thing to do at the outset, since the immediate, urgent need is for trained infantry reinforcements. The 16,000 men in question would doubtless have been the first to go overseas in any event, regardless of whether conscription for battle service was limited to them or made complete. But it is understandable that many if not all of the 16,000 feel that the compromise adopted unfairly discriminates against them, and arbitrarily picks them for overseas because they are fully trained while maintaining the protective exemption of home duty for the remaining 44,000 draftees.

It is, in fact, also an unfair and irrational distinction for this residual main body, who are left exposed as continued targets of the epithet of "zombie" with all its implications. They remain as the most readily available butts of a gibe which, in part, at least, actually springs from disillusion with the contradictions and lack of reality in Government policy.

Sooner or later the inexorable demands of Canada's war commitments will require that at least a portion, perhaps all, of the remaining draftees must be used to maintain our armed strength on the fighting lines. The honest and forthright thing to do is to put all men in uniform on an equal footing as either actual or potential fighting men, and end all foundation for the now widespread usage of "zombie."

LETTERS FROM READERS

Cure For Our Ills

Sir,—That is a good \$64.00 question that is raised by Mr. Richard Callan in his rhyme on your editorial page for November 25:

In that better postwar world,
Into which we'll all be hurled,
Will the rights for which men fought,
Be fully recognized or not.

Unfortunately the answer is—no—because neither under our present system of so-called democracy, nor under the by some so much admired Russian ideology can it be achieved.

Mankind under our present system is being exploited exclusively for and by a monopolist-cartel controlled capitalistic-politician ruled party government which is undemocratic, and under our Russian ally or any socialistic state for that matter—it is or is being destined to be exploited by an ever increasing bureaucracy under dictatorship and in regimentation under which 90 per cent. of the producers of all wealth (goods) are working to keep 10 per cent. parasitic spongers in great style and luxury from which there is no option for a change save a bloody revolution and both systems spell economic slavery save for the monopolists and bureaucratic castes.

The only change that offers a sure possibility of giving everybody willing and able to work productively an equity in all wealth produced is and remains the adoption of land-value-only-taxation—call it single-tax if you must—but do not forget that a rose by any other name smells just as sweet.

Will you please oblige by publishing this contribution to sensible reform?

OSCAR BOELENIS.

Montreal, November 26.

A Fairer System

Sir,—So our Home Defence troops are staging in B.C. protest demonstrations against what they call "phony conscription." Well, they can hardly be blamed. This is our new Defence Minister's first big mistake—invidiously picking out certain definite units and conferring the "honor of service overseas" on them. Well, apparently, they don't feel honored, and their resentment is justified.

It is well understood that these men are going over as reinforcements and, as such, on arriving overseas they may be posted to such units as require to be reinforced. Accordingly there is no point in sending complete units. All over Canada and in Newfoundland there are Home Defence camps with three years training in them. Why should not these 16,000 men be drawn from these camps on a quota basis? Let the C.O. of each camp put the numbers of all eligibles (that is men with sufficient training) in a hat and from thence draw his quota.

This is something like the system used in the U.S. and has worked very satisfactorily.

I think the new Minister might, with profit copy some existing system that makes it fair and equal to all.

ALEX. MUNRO.

Montreal, November 26.

Imperialist Orgy

Sir,—It has come to pass. Instead of limiting our field commitments to the measure of our capacity, we are recklessly undertaking to replace war casualties boundlessly.

To that end, a measure of coercion for military service overseas, which no other Dominion could be persuaded to enact, has been imposed upon us. The imperialist orgy has broken loose.

Our English speaking compatriots who are still—politically—sober enough to think and who, by deeds of commission and of omission, have brought this situation about, may well ponder on the consequences of their conduct. Canada, as a united nation, is receiving these days, a treatment from which it will never completely recover.

In the saying of Benjamin Franklin, partisans of conscription are making this country pay an awful price for their cherished whistle.

ARTHUR SAINT-PIERRE.

Montreal, November 24.

Draftees in B.C. Mutiny, Prevent Trade Canadians Hold Strip of Reich Territory

CARDINAL VILLENEUVE'S EXAMPLE

HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL VILLENEUVE has always proved a source of inspiration to the people whose spiritual welfare is his especial charge. Recently he visited Canadian troops overseas and cheered them with messages from home and the comfort of their faith; and in Britain he delivered an address in which he attested to Quebec's unswerving loyalty to the Crown. More recently His Eminence answered for the people of his archdiocese a number of questions which, because he himself found it necessary to refer to them, must have been troubling many people.

We have long considered this an ideological war, and although Mr. Churchill recently expressed his own belief that it is losing its ideological character, many people in the United Nations still believe that the sharp cleavage between Nazi philosophy and the ideas of the rest of the Western world characterizes our struggle as a fight for right and justice over the powers of evil.

His Eminence also takes this view. "What," he asked in his recent pastoral letter, "should one's opinion be about the justice of the war or the part of the Allies? Is it permissible to co-operate in that war effort, to sacrifice one's life to it?" In his reply the Cardinal does not refer to the citizen's inescapable duty to fight for his country, but rather, because he addressed himself to Roman Catholics in particular, quoted the words of Cardinal van Roey, Archbishop of Malines. The Belgian prelate said: "I who know the Nazis quite well was convinced at the start that if Germany should win this war, Catholicism in Europe would have been done away with."

Cardinal Villeneuve, in his own commentary on this statement, widens the basis of service. "Hence," he asked, "is it forbidden to admire those who wanted or at least undertook to expose their lives to protect the Kingdom of God, and even protect their country, because henceforth distance between countries will mean nothing?"

And in a moving exhortation His Eminence pleaded for support for the men overseas:

"And now, my dear diocesans, a recommendation: Our sons are over there fighting a war. It will not be only with weapons that they will be victorious, it is with their hearts. Let us give them heart. For that, let us love them, encourage them, support them. Do not forget them, nor neglect them."

It does not fall within His Eminence's province, of course, to appeal to his compatriots and co-religionists to come forward to serve their country. Underlying his pastoral letter, however, and for the reasons he himself gives, there is the clear inference that no man can stand outside this fight for decency and order and for the defeat of those forces of evil that would destroy Christian civilization.

Situation Eases Among British Columbia Draftees

Troop Train Leaves Terrace Unmolested

(By Canadian Press)

Movement of a troop train carrying a Home Defence regiment from Terrace, B.C., to a new Pacific Coast post appeared today to have marked an easing in the tense situation at the Pacific Coast surrounding demonstration by Home Defence soldiers against the Government's conscription policy.

The demonstrations came while Parliament still was considering the revised reinforcement policy under which authority has been given for 16,000 Home Defence troops to be sent on overseas service.

Yesterday, these demonstrations centred in British Columbia but from Nova Scotia and Quebec came reports of incidents. At North Sydney, N.S., a soldier broke a window when a girl shouted "Zombies" at troops passing her home. Both Home Defence and General Service men were in the ranks.

At Loretteville, Que., municipal authorities are investigating reports that a Union Jack was torn down and burned last night during an anti-conscription parade in which several hundred youth took part.

At Sydney, N.S., the local chapter of the Loyal Orange Lodge went on record protesting the action of "a mob in Quebec" tearing down a Union Jack.

The movement of the troop train from Terrace was reported by a Pacific command spokesman. He said the train had left on schedule and without incident. Yesterday from Terrace it was reported the train was standing empty on a siding while men from a Quebec Regiment threatened violence and kept a Saskatchewan Regiment from boarding the train.

At other British Columbia points where there had been week-end demonstration all was quiet yesterday but at Port Alberni on Vancouver Island 200 men staged an anti-conscription parade.

Investigation Opened

Investigation of the disturbances is being made by military authorities who will report to the Pacific command. Command officers have expressed doubt at reports from Terrace that brigade headquarters had stopped the pay and allowances of men who took part in the parades. There was no official comment in Ottawa.

Orderly Demonstration

MONT LAURIER, Que., Nov. 29.—(B. U. P.)—Approximately 800 French-Canadian students gathered in the Arena here last night to frame a message to Maurice Lalonde, the Liberal member for this constituency in Ottawa, protesting against the Government's order-in-council sending 16,000 conscripts overseas.

The demonstrators, who were between the ages of 15 and 22, observers said, registered their opposition to conscription for overseas service and expressed their intention of asking that their representative in Parliament also did so.

Police said that the demonstra-

tion was quiet, and no damage was reported.

French-Canadians Courageous

TORONTO, Nov. 29.—(C. P.)—Heavy casualties were suffered by Canadian forces in France, Matthew Halton, C.B.C. war correspondent, said yesterday in an address to the Empire Club of Toronto. Mr. Halton referred particularly to a Nova Scotia regiment, saying that before the end of the Battle of Normandy only six officers and 15 men of the original force which landed on D-Day were still in action.

Whatever might be the reason for opposition in Quebec to the conscription issue, "nobody can say that the French-Canadians are taking that attitude because of lack of guts or courage on the battlefield."

Watching the attack on Caen where English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians "were hand in hand" one would never have thought that at home in Canada "we are facing the most serious political issue in our history."

New Understanding

ST. CATHARINE, Ont., Nov. 29.—(B.U.P.)—Claiming that "It is a lot of hokum that the English and French cannot be brought together in Canada" Paul Villeneuve, Montreal labor leader appealed for "understanding" between the two races.

Mr. Villeneuve was addressing a meeting of trade union men under the auspices of the United Automobile Workers (C.I.O.) here last night. He believes that trade unionism can contribute largely to "The new spirit of understanding sweeping over Canada."

Not Ready to Go

OTTAWA, Nov. 29.—(Star Special by Staff Correspondent)—The disturbed situation in British Columbia, where draftees are resisting the order that they move for service overseas under the new conscription order is the subject of many reports today to the National Defence Department. It was stated, however, that such reports as had been received were little different than those which had appeared in a press despatch.

So far as disciplinary action is concerned that clearly rests upon the district military authorities. If they should fail it is their duty to report and cause other measures to be taken. If it comes to a physical problem of removing some thousands of men who physically resist and some of whom are equipped with arms and ammunition the situation could be serious.

There appears to be some disparity between the conditions which now are reported and those which were reported at a press conference with military officers in British Columbia last week. The latter were to the effect that the troops who had been drafted were prepared to go once they were ordered to go, but not prepared to volunteer for service overseas.

A statement from the National Defence Department is expected during the day but one which was uttered early has been delayed.

Transfer of Other Troops; Story East of Nijmegen

House Concludes Secret Session; King Expected to Hold Majority

By F. C. MEARS

(Gazette Resident Correspondent)

Ottawa, November 28.—After a two-hour secret session this afternoon and evening, the Commons resumed its public sittings and continued debate on the King vote-confidence motion. During the secret session—the first since 1942—the third since the beginning of the war—Defence Minister McNaughton was questioned about Canadian armed forces.

At the conclusion of the session last night, Speaker J. A. Glen issued the following statement:

"The House of Commons held a secret sitting from 3 p.m. today. General the Honorable A. G. L. McNaughton, Minister of National Defence, was present and gave information respecting the Canadian forces."

Under the Defence of Canada Regulations the Speaker's statement is all that could be published on the sitting.

These secret sittings have been passed by members of the opposition and two of them, Joseph Harcourt (Toronto-Danforth) and Clayton Desmond (Kent, Ont.), walked out of the chamber this afternoon in protest while Earl Rowe, another prominent Progressive Conservative, scored the government last night for the proposal, did not go to the House meeting today, where there were political doings to

day as well, for there was a three-hour caucus of Quebec Liberal members. After it Maj. Gen. L. R. LaFleche, Minister of National War Services, assured the press there would be no more Quebec bolters, but there are indications that more violent anti-conscriptionists from that province will cross the floor either during the debate or when the voting comes.

It is also probable, in spite of highly optimistic reports emanating from government sources, that there will be Liberal bolters from other parts of Canada for the opposite reason given by Quebec members. Even though Prime Minister King yesterday carefully sought to discourage these conspiratorist Liberals from making trouble by telling them that even if they were instrumental in upsetting their government no other party could now replace it, there are Liberals from Ontario and Western Canada who feel they can't safely disregard the wave of popular indignation in those areas. They believe that to strengthen their position before their electorate they must take a stand in Parliament whatever disfavor it may bring from other government supporters.

VIOLENCE IS TALKED

Striking Home Defence Troops at Terrace Threaten Trouble

MEN CARRY RIFLES

Pay and Allowance Reported Stopped as Authorities Open an Inquiry

Terrace, B.C., November 28.—(C)—A regiment of N.R.M.A. infantry from Saskatchewan, on draft for service overseas and due to leave Terrace, remained in camp late today under threat of armed violence by striking home defence troops.

The striking troops were classed as mutineers, it was understood, since they interfered with other

Pearkes Says Troops Not Moving Overseas

Vancouver, November 28.—(C)—Maj. Gen. G. R. Pearkes, general officer commanding-in-chief, said tonight a regiment whose transfer from Terrace had been prevented by pickets of other home defence units was en route to coast defence duties and was not moving overseas.

He issued the following statement: "A unit which now has been given a coast defence role and which was being moved from Terrace to another point in British Columbia was prevented from entraining by pickets of other units in Terrace. A previous report that this unit was moving overseas was made in error."

(Gen. Pearkes' announcement came almost seven hours after first Canadian Press despatches that the men whose departure was held up were on draft for overseas. The earlier dispatch had been passed by the censor.)

troops in the performance of their duty.

A waiting troop train stood idle on a siding and the drafted soldiers remained at their camps.

(A spokesman for Pacific Command at Vancouver said later tonight the situation at Terrace appeared to be "easier." The spokesman said a field ambulance unit supporting the anti-conscription demonstrators had turned in their arms and there was a "possibility the Saskatchewan Regiment may be allowed to proceed tonight.")

Threats and intimidation were being used by leaders of the recalcitrant home defence troops here to keep less fervent members in line, inquiries among the men disclosed today.

The anti-conscription group of soldiers were picketing members of the Saskatchewan regiment and members of the latter unit said the demonstrating home defence men had ammunition and gave the impression of being prepared to use it.

"We have ammunition, too," said a member of the regiment from Saskatchewan. "But I wish we didn't."

The way things are going, it would be

Quebec French-Canadian Draftees to Be Sent Back

QUEBEC CITY, Nov. 29.—(B.U.P.)—Orders have been issued to return to Quebec province all French-Canadian troops stationed elsewhere in Canada, Brig. Edmund Blais, officer commanding Military District No. 5, announced here today.

"These soldiers will be returned to our district and will be trained here under their own officers," Blais said.

At the same time he announced that Lt.-Col. Paul Garneau, D.S.O., Montreal, will command the Second Battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment. It was announced two weeks ago that Major Paul Triquet, V.C., would assume the command, but it was said today that Triquet is remaining overseas.

Garneau, who is a Dieppe vet-

eran, now is in Quebec preparing to take over his new command.

Military headquarters today reported that voluntary recruiting is going very well, and undoubtedly will go much better when all French-Canadian troops are returned."

Orders Received Here

Steps have been taken to prepare for the reception of French-speaking units in various centres in Quebec, but staff officers at M.D. No. 4 will not designate the names of the units.

So far as this military district is concerned, it is known that at least two French-speaking units will be quartered in the province, and are expected to arrive at an early date. They will occupy the former training centres which had been vacated some time ago.

Coalition Talk Heard

Interest Centres In Ralston Stand

OTTAWA, Nov. 29.—(Star Special by Staff Correspondent)—The speech that Col. Ralston, former Minister of Defence, is preparing to make, perhaps today, is awaited as the most interesting contribution yet to come in the debate on the reinforcement measures.

If Colonel Ralston supports the Government it will be one thing. If he opposes it, as is stated in some quarters to be his inclination, it will be a source of added embarrassment. Conceivably, some of the English speaking Liberal members might take their cue from him and vote against the Government, but who they are is not known nor their numbers.

If such a stand on Col. Ralston's part, assuming he wishes to stay in public life, would have any likelihood of defeating the present Government there is no doubt of a union government being envisioned as in 1917. Whether Col. Ralston would subscribe to any such movement there is nothing to show. Anything he has said or done so far sustains the belief that he is anxious to return to his law practice, which he was reluctant to leave in the first place.

Defeat Not Likely

Whatever the course he takes little suggests the probability of the defeat of the Government.

It could only come about through defections from the ranks of its English-speaking as well as its French-speaking supporters. Any notion that a move to replace Mr. King by a union government would, it is claimed, solidify the French Liberal ranks and quickly close any breach in them which now is threatened. Their disposition is to link full conscription with a union government.

An election would be necessitated by any unanticipated change of government and that prospect is little relished by any as being disruptive of the war effort and intensifying the divisions already in evidence.

As things stand Col. Ralston has been vindicated. Whatever the circumstances that brought it about the appeal for volunteers failed after being attempted by Gen. McNaughton. It was lost in the din of the clamor for sending overseas the "Zombies" who were pictured as ready to go once they were "ordered" to go. What followed was resort to the conscription of the draftee army starting with 16,000.

Had this been done when Col. Ralston favored such a course he would still be Minister of Defence. Parliament would be in session, as it is, to sanction the same procedure as now had been followed, but recommended by Col. Ralston.

Ralston Dissatisfied

It is known that Col. Ralston is dissatisfied over some things and resentful over others. Some close to him indicate great irritation.

His support of the Government now would be a great help, but not necessarily would his opposition menace the Ministry. As has been pointed out, possible opposition to Mr. King would incidentally involve opposition to those colleagues whose loyalty to him brought about eventually the plan Col. Ralston sought to accomplish. On that fact he will have no illusion.

In his speech on Monday the Prime Minister revealed that starting with Col. Ralston one after another of his colleagues were asked if they would wish to head a conscriptionist ministry. All declined, had no such ambition then. Nothing indicates a change meanwhile.

So this is the situation today, great interest in the Ralston attitude and the proposal he has in view, especially should it be political rather than personal and professional.

Situation at Terrace To be Handled Locally

Vancouver, November 28.—(C)—A spokesman for Pacific Command said tonight instructions or orders had been sent to the brigade commander at Terrace where home defence troops are preventing overseas draftees from leaving camp. Pacific Command is working on the basis that the situation should be dealt with locally, he said.

The spokesman said there definitely had not been any stoppage of pay and allowances to any soldiers at Terrace as this could not be done until a man had been charged and convicted and the penalty order had gone through the pay office. No pay stoppage orders had been received at Pacific Command.

If any soldiers at Terrace were classed as "mutineers," it must have been done unofficially by someone giving his own personal opinion and the term was not used on the basis of any charges, the spokesman said. "Mutineers," the spokesman said, might have been a nickname used by a man to describe the demonstrating home defence troops just as previously they were called "zombies" by some.



MORE RECRUITS ASKED BY NAVY

Ottawa, November 29—The Naval headquarters announced tonight the Navy will resume recruiting—virtually suspended since October 1—early in the new year on a scale calling for an anticipated average of 300 ratings a month while Wren recruiting—now at a rate of 150 a month—will be suspended indefinitely in February.

The announcement said that last April the Navy still needed 12,000 to reach "approved complement."

Enlistments during the following six months brought net increases of 8,961 male ratings and 1,199 Wrens and the balance of complement has since been enlisted," the announcement continued. "Recruiting was sharply reduced in October and entry now is possible in only a few categories such as cooks, stewards and supply assistants. Consideration has, however,

"Special provision has, however, been made for the entry of some Sea Cadets as ordinary seamen, but the applicant who has not had Sea Cadet training cannot enter in this branch at the present time."

The scheduled recruiting rate starting early in the new year is "calculated to meet replacement requirements." Branches of the service in which recruits will be accepted are expected to be common for general service, and communication training, cooks, supply and stewards.

The Wren monthly recruiting rate of 150 will be maintained until February with a particular need reported for mess women and wardroom assistants.

Navy personnel officers said they were "highly satisfied" with progress made in recruiting. They said that the wartime expansion of the service is virtually complete and that the supply of men in both numbers and quality has been adequate at all times—"a most gratifying feature" of the Navy's war record.

They emphasized that when new applications for enlistment are deferred or rejected it is because a limit has been set beyond which Canadian naval expansion cannot go, a limit naval officials are determined to respect "in the interests of the country and economy."

In explanation of recruiting this fall, the announcement said naval authorities deemed it necessary to maintain a high rate of recruiting beginning early in 1944 until it became obvious that all personnel requirements could be satisfied.

The main factor which determines the naval complement is the number of ships in commission and in the past calendar year frigates, corvettes, destroyers, cruisers and escort carriers have made heavy demands on the Navy's manpower resources.

Ralston Damns King Government At Same Time He Saves Its Life

Ottawa, November 29.—Layton Ralston has probably saved the government but he has damned it forever.

forever. In two hours in the House of Commons this evening he built up his case with deadly precision; he spoke coldly and quietly with calculated self-possession; he glanced sternly about him and he stared accusingly at the Prime Minister as he made it plain that he has never forgotten the treatment he received at his hands; and all who witnessed the performance left the chamber convinced that it will take a rash man to trifle with the feelings or the word of Layton Ralston in future.

In deadly strokes Col. Ralston cut through the layers of statements, counter-statements, charges and counter-charges that have obscured the reinforcement issue. When he was finished it seemed that the last word had been said, that the question that has been de-

bated for weeks lay before all beholders almost tangible in its reality and starkly plain in its simplicity. Surely never in the history of parliamentary institutions has a House of Commons ever heard such a cool indictment of the intentions and the word of a Prime Minister; seldom can a ministry have squirmed in such acute discomfort and embarrassment; and never can a dismissed minister have shrugged off so impersonally the resentments of the past and renounced with such evident sincerity all political ambitions for the future.

The public, that has been so responsive to the developments of this epochal month in Canadian history, once more disclosed its quick awareness of the significance of Col. Ralston's appearance. The afternoon attendance in the galleries was slim and restless; tonight the galleries were jammed once more

and the tension could be felt. Col. Ralston's impressive calm and his self-assured precision charged the air anew.

He began by setting the record straight in the matter of cabinet secrecy; his disclosures had followed those of the Prime Minister, he said, adding that he thought the doors of the Privy Council had been pretty well opened in the debate and that what was all right for the Prime Minister ought to be all right for a humble ex-minister. With his address thus started off on a fighting note, there was a rustle of excitement throughout the House. The members on the opposition benches brightened visibly as the Liberal ranks stiffened appreciatively. He questioned the accuracy of the Prime Minister in stating that insufficient notice had been given the cabinet of the need for reinforcements, and he dismissed the objection by declaring it to be wholly irrelevant to the question.

He poured scorn on the idea that he ought to have told Mr. King at the time of the Quebec conference that the need for reinforcing the man power pools was pressing; that the Quebec conference had nothing to do with the battles in Europe, he declared; it dealt entirely with Pacific operations. But he withheld his deadliest fire for Mr. King's statement in his Commons address that the Prime Minister had approached each minister of his cabinet in turn to offer them the responsibility of forming a government.

This is a matter that has aroused the liveliest speculation since Mr. King sprang it on the surprised House on Monday. This reporter ventured the suggestion that it was made rhetorically. Col. Ralston did more than confirm that guess; he declared that far from being in genuine search of a successor the Prime Minister made the "offer" as a quick interjection in casual conversation.

This was more than Mr. King could stand. He jumped to his feet to deny that he had addressed the remark to only three men in the cabinet, but Col. Ralston turned him aside in short order, for he was about to make one of the many telling points of the evening. He was not opposing the government policy when he departed from the cabinet but was proposing to carry out what he believed to be the policy of the government, he said.

He had undertaken the task at the request of the Prime Minister, he commented somewhat sadly, and he would have liked to continue it. And here Col. Ralston indulged in one of the very few moments of introspection that marked his speech. Like the Prime Minister of two days before he documents his case, but unlike him he seldom reveals the personal urge that commits him to any course.

He stated it this way: He realized his faults, that he was not flexible enough. He was born that way and he was too old to change now. He realized that his place lay not on the dizzy heights of leadership and he felt no responsibility to take on duties for which he did not feel himself fitted. He foresaw that there would be resentment and some satisfaction at his political demise on the part of his opponents but he was convinced that his place lay not inside but outside the cabinet. That decision is made and he has no regrets.

The first hour of his address had flown. He had prepared the stage dramatically for what was to be something of an anti-climax, his detailed analysis of the reinforcement situation and his review of his battle area findings. The galleries became restless, members slipped out of their places to smoke and talk in the lobbies, and the tense atmosphere relaxed.

But with his case presented Col. Ralston proceeded to his charge. Faced with a situation at the time of his resignation whereby at the end of January all pools would be exhausted, the new minister of defense had lost two valuable weeks in making useless appeals, he said. He told the once more startled listeners that Gen. McNaughton neither realized the urgency of the need for men nor that the only place where there was in the camps on the west coast. Fifteen thousand men were needed, he said, and when the order-in-council was passed on November 23 the question which he had to decide was whether or not he would have accepted it while he was minister.

This brought Col. Ralston to the crux of the evening. He could not have afforded to reject it, he said, but he would have been obliged to object to its half-hearted, piecemeal method. This brought applause from the opposition, and the Liberal benches slumped again. The moment the principle was created that certain N.R.M.A. men should go overseas that principle should have been extended to all, he continued. The opposition thumped their desks in delight. Home defence troops should have been made subject to the same scope of service as General Service men, he went on. The chamber rang with "hear, hear," from across the aisle. But it was so important to have these men immediately that had Col. Ralston been minister he would have accepted the provisions of the order-in-council and been prepared to battle it out on pro-

cedure and method later, he declared. Proceeding further to his climax, he told the House, now perceiving his intention, that if the order-in-council means what he understands it to mean the result has been achieved by a unique combination of circumstances; the pressure of public opinion and the attitude of certain of his colleagues in the cabinet.

Col. Ralston is far from satisfied with the halting attitude that has finally resulted in getting men bound overseas but he is determined to do nothing to delay their departure. He believes the time has come when all N.R.M.A. troops should be sent; he has worked too hard to bring about the changed position to be able to afford to do anything now to hinder it, and having stated that position to the now dejected Conservatives and the rejuvenated Liberals he told them that he intends to vote for the Prime Minister's motion.

Prime Minister's motion. His position was clearly stated, and it is a compelling one that will have a resounding effect on those who have been pondering their own. He is not asking for a change of government, he is not asking for a general election. He is asking only that reinforcements be sent to the troops overseas. He believes that if there is a change of government or a general election the sight of the ball will be lost in the confusion of disorganization. He believes that what the government has done is unsatisfactory but that action is more important than method. He doubts that the minister's program of dispatch of troops is sufficiently rapid, and he hopes that further orders-in-council will be passed without further reference to the House. If there is anything that one can be sure of tonight it is that as long as he remains in the House Layton Ralston will be a watch dog growling over the government and the Minister of Defence and holding them to strict account to their undertaking to reinforce Canada's fighting army.

As to the political consequences of Col Ralston's stand, it is not considered likely tonight that it will change the vote of any Quebec Liberals. It will have its effect on Ontario and Western Liberalers who may have been in doubt, and it will probably garner votes from the ranks of the C.C.F. and the Social Crediters. But whatever its immediate results it will be long remembered as a devastating indictment of the head of the government and the role played by some members of his Cabinet. It is hardly likely to repair the breach in the cabinet or to stimulate confidence and trust in the government as a whole.

But then Col Ralston did not set out to repair breaches: he intended to put Layton Ralston's side of the matter before the public.

ays His Half-hearted Policies; ill Be Exhausted by January

DELAY IS DEPLORED

Ralston Reveals Reinforce- ments Pool Almost Used Up

BITTER ATTACK ON KING

Ralston Says Fast Action to Back Up Men Overseas Most Important Issue

Ralston excerpts, page 7.
By F. C. MEARS.

(Gazette Resident Correspondent.)

Ottawa, November 29.—Col. J. L. Ralston, who was ousted from the cabinet by Prime Minister King to make way for Gen. McNaughton as Defence Minister who, in turn, adopted the course urged by him, saved the government in crisis No. 3, tonight, when at the conclusion of a two-hour speech, he said he would vote against the opposition amendment and for the Prime Minister's motion of confidence in the administration.

"I wasn't asking for a change of government," declared the former Defence Minister in his closing words, "but I was asking for quick infantry reinforcements; I wasn't asking for dissolution and a general election, but I was asking for reinforcements."

This fine exhibition of magnanimity, while it didn't surprise anybody in the House, has certainly upset the parliamentary applecart and will quickly remove the necessity for a protracted special session. Col. Ralston opened the bomb bay and the opposition group looked as if they had been badly blighted.

SESSION MAY END TODAY

Parliament will probably go home tomorrow night. There is no further need of its staying. Since the legislators met the government has given them limited conscription and a promise that as further men, additional to the 16,000 are needed, they will be promptly called and sent.

The fight to get Prime Minister King to change his mind cost him his loyal Defence Minister. Col. Ralston who tonight after interminably exposing what was branded as political trickery on the part of the Prime Minister decided to vote with the government. It also cost him his Air Minister, Maj. C. G. Power, for the opposite reason, and also caused other Quebec ministers to be extremely uneasy.

But Col. Ralston made it abundantly clear that should any group of people want to form a new national party at this time for the purpose of upsetting the King ministry he will not be with him. His central and consuming passion is to get men overseas quickly, and he told Parliament tonight that any move that would throw the nation into political turmoil at this crucial stage of the war could not expect public support or his aid.

So if not even a close vote is possible, if there is no chance of weakening or jeopardizing the government's hold on power at this time, about five months before the constitution will compel it to make an electoral appeal, there is no need of commoners or senators staying in Ottawa, and the emergency session is likely to end tomorrow night or Friday at the latest.

1,860 for Active Army Enlisted Last Week

Ottawa, November 29.—Gen. Defence Minister McNaughton announced today that last week 1,860 men enlisted for active service, the biggest week on record. The previous high weekly figure was 1,325 which followed D-Day, June 6.

A breakdown of last week's enlistment was: From Home Defence forces 886; from reserve 113; from the public 881.

Gen. McNaughton added that a satisfactory proportion of the enlistments was French-Canadian.

Preceding Mr. Rowe's declaration, Mr. Hanson had the floor for a few moments this afternoon; he elicited from the Prime Minister the information that Hon. Alphonse Fourrier, Minister of Public Works is still to be found in the ranks of the ministry, although he cannot be discerned in the lobby curtains, and that the demonstrations of troops on the coast cannot be described as mutiny.

The situation is being carefully watched and completely controlled, the Prime Minister said, and Mr. Hanson, who is acting in the absence of Gordon Grayson who has taken sick of the flu, had perforce to be discontented with that reply. The illness of Mr. Grayson is said to be the cause of the somewhat elliptic speech he delivered

in moving the opposition amendment to the government motion on Monday evening; in any event it was considered much below his expected standard.

Rumors continue to abound regarding the position of the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. James Gardiner. He has made it clear that he is opposed to conscription, but it is held that his resignation is unlikely because he has accepted the present order-in-council but is opposed to further steps. He has also intimated his belief, one source declares, that Canada's contribution in foodstuffs is as important as her commitments of man power; for that reason he feels that men are as important on the land as at the front.

There is a feeling here that Mr. Gardiner is making a bid for the leadership of the party should Mr. King retire, as he has threatened to do. This may be doing him an injustice but in any event he would find himself supported by a solid Quebec following, without which it would be difficult to carry a convention.

The regular business of the house resumed this afternoon after a day spent in secret session. Nothing has transpired of what took place yesterday, and under the censorship directive on wartime secrecy it is injudicious to speculate too freely on the sessions. But it was judged today that the government left the chamber somewhat reinforced in its position, that is in its position for conscription. It is probably safe to say that the questioning of Gen. McNaughton strengthened the hand of those who are in favor of conscription, but since the government has two positions the overall effect may have been to neutralize what might have been made.

But the caucus of Quebec Liberals held prior to the secret sessions is a different matter. The French-speaking members of the party were reported today to be considering the advisability of introducing an amendment to the government's confidence motion which would state their opposition to conscription but would permit them to vote with the government on the main motion. There is little doubt that this course was proposed to the Quebec faction by Mr. King as a way out of their dilemma. But whether it will prove easy in its application or even feasible is yet to be seen. For the amendment would appear to float the main motion, and for that reason there is little doubt but that it would meet strenuous opposition.

The same took a new turn at this afternoon's session when the Progressive Conservative opposition announced through Hon. W. Earl Rowe that the party "stands prepared to cooperate with any government which, under leadership that will insure equality of service, offers proof of will and determination to send to our soldiers overseas the reinforcements which our war commitments demand." The decision to offer this stand was made at a party caucus held before the House met and after midnight strategy conferences held at the close of the secret sessions of Tuesday.

It may be assumed that the decision, to make this announcement was dictated by realization of the possibility that the government might not be able to survive the vote of confidence. Since the Conservatives themselves are in no position to form a government susceptible of remaining in office for any appreciable time, they thus offer their cooperation to any new government formed to carry on the vigorous prosecution of the war. This does not mean, that they are prepared to enter a union government as in 1917 when Liberal and Conservative conscriptionists united to form a ministry. What it does mean is that they are prepared to cooperate with a Liberal, say Mr. Ralston or Mr. Halsey; in the last analysis it means that they will lend their support to any Liberal capable of forming a government, other than Mr. King.

It is probably near the mark to guess that in their preliminary canvass of the situation the Progressive Conservative policy-makers, lighted on Col. Ralston as their choice, but two considerations deterred them from naming him: First, it was necessary to get the above-mentioned statement on the record before Col. Ralston spoke; and second, Col. Ralston had not at that time made known his decision whether to vote for or against the government. To have mentioned him by name would have been fatal on both counts.

the Army would be without infantry reinforcements overseas and the units themselves would be slightly under strength.

But members sitting opposite and critical of the government weren't the only ones to feel the explosive force of the former Defence Minister's bombs tonight for there was a devastating exposure of the Prime Minister's attempts to avert dissolution during the cabinet crisis. It became so hot that more than once the Prime Minister got to his feet. When he heard the end of his speech, Col. Ralston declared his own efforts to get the cabinet to adopt his recommendation were finally backed up by a powerful force of public opinion and by the determined stand of some of his cabinet colleagues — there were six of them.

Col. Ralston assured Parliament and the people that he has gotten

most of what he sought, though the policy finally adopted seemed "half-hearted and piecemeal."

What he wanted was the "early dispatch of trained infantry reinforcements," and he would hold the Prime Minister and Gen. McNaughton to strict account in vigorously prosecuting the policy they had finally been forced to accept, and he would expect that if reinforcements further than the 16,000 were needed an order-in-council would be passed and acted upon without the Prime Minister coming to Parliament to ask for another vote of confidence.

"My one objective and determination," said Col. Ralston in his concluding words, "and, I may say, struggle from the day I arrived home from overseas, has been to get additional trained infantry men overseas quickly to reinforce our magnificent fighting men. That still is my objective, whether I am in office or out of it. In the midst of all the confusion and contradictions and upsetting incidents of the last five weeks I have been determined to keep my eye on the ball. I considered and so recommended that it was necessary to send N.R.M.A. men for that purpose."

"My immediate objective," said Col. Ralston, was to get an additional 15,000 men from the N.R.M.A. trained infantry. Today, if the declarations of the Prime Minister and the Minister of National Defence mean what I understand them to mean, the sending of 16,000 additional men from the N.R.M.A. as rapidly as they can be dispatched is assured, and the principle is laid down by order-in-council that N.R.M.A. men are to be available for reinforcement purposes, and it is said by the minister that further numbers will be sent as required."

That result has been achieved by a combination of circumstances unique in the history of this country," said Col. Ralston. "Public opinion has made itself felt so powerfully that it could not be disregarded. The resolute stand of certain former colleagues in the Cabinet has brought out that mighty influence into positive action. Any part I have had could only succeed because of the vigorous and laudable support of those other two forces."

DEPLORES DELAY

"I am far from satisfied with the delay which this three weeks has cost and with the lack of a sense of urgency which has been displayed," the former Defence Minister continued. "I am far from satisfied with the piecemeal method adopted, or the halting attitude it indicates. I have already stated my objections to that method, but now that at last action has been taken I am determined that neither my dissatisfaction nor those objections are going to deflect me into doing anything which may in the slightest delay further the sending forward of those reinforcements."

"To vote for the opposition amendment," said Col. Ralston, "is to vote for a want of confidence motion. If it carried, the government's motion would be lost and the government, instead of driving ahead, as it must do, to dispatch the 16,000 reinforcements from the N.R.M.A. and the further reinforcements required from time to time, would cease to function, and the whole matter of dispatching reinforcements would be thrown into the realm of uncertainty and suspense."

"I have come to the conclusion that I will not by my vote permit that to happen," said Col. Ralston. "I have worked too hard in my humble way to bring about the changed policy of the government to jeopardize or give any excuse for delaying the prompt dispatch of these 16,000 men overseas."

"I was not asking for a change of government at this crucial period of the war," said the former Defence Minister. "I wanted reinforcements and I wanted them quickly. I was not asking for a general election to plunge this country into acute political turmoil for the next two months. It was reinforcements I wanted."

This Social Credit motion not only called for adequate reinforcements but also for a long list of social and economic reforms. Early in the day's proceedings Capt. J. A. Johnson, Liberal member for London, Ont., who has been in overseas service for four years, opened the debate with a brief speech warmly commending the stand taken by the Prime Minister and scoring the war record of the Progressive Conservatives, and late in the afternoon Liguori Lacombe (Laval) Two Mounties got into

Striking Troops Return to Duty; B.C. Draftee Flareup Said Easing

Vancouver, November 29. — A Pacific Command spokesman announced late today that a troop train carrying an English-speaking home defence regiment left Terrace at 1.30 p.m. P.D.T. 4.30 p.m. E.D.T.) today, after being delayed by anti-conscription demonstrations.

(The Vancouver Province published a dispatch from Prince George B.C. saying that Maj.-Gen. G. A. Pearkes, general officer commanding-in-chief, Pacific Command, was on his way to Terrace to assume personal command there.)

High-ranking Pacific Command officers at Vancouver refused to confirm or deny that Gen. Pearkes was en route to Terrace to handle the grave situation caused by a French-Canadian unit from Quebec protesting against partial overseas conscription authorized last week by the Dominion Government.

The home defence troops originally were called up for service in

Canada only, under the National Resources Mobilization Act. French-Canadian home defence troops at Terrace have been on a "sitdown" strike, doing only essential chores, awaiting a reply from the government to demand that they be returned to their homes in Quebec.

The Saskatchewan regiment which was to have made a routine move to another station in the province had been prevented from leaving Terrace by pickets of other units at the village 500 miles north of Vancouver.

Reports from Terrace tonight said that the demonstrating troops had returned to their duties late this afternoon.

Ottawa Lists Those Subject To Army Call

Several Categories Mentioned in Order

OTTAWA, Nov. 29. (C. P.) — Certain categories of men discharged from the Navy and Air Force are subject to military call, Hon. H. Mitchell, Labor Minister, said today in the Commons.

He said the Navy and Air Force stipulated the categories in which the "dischargees"—all surplus personnel—were placed.

Recent and future graduates from the Commonwealth Air Training Plan—estimated at 10,000—who will go into civilian air force reserve under a recent curtailment order, are not affected by today's announcement, an Air Force spokesman said.

Not Subject

Those not subject to military recall are:

1. Men with service overseas, or over the territorial waters of Canada providing such service has not been terminated on grounds of misconduct or inefficiency prior to engagement in actual operations.
2. Men who have served three years or more in Canada and whose services have not been terminated for misconduct or inefficiency.
3. Men discharged on compassionate grounds.
4. Men discharged to civilian posts of high essentiality.
5. Men discharged as medically unfit.

Liable to Recall

Those liable to recall:

1. Personnel with overseas or home service who were discharged on grounds of inefficiency.
2. Personnel whose services were terminated on grounds of misconduct by sentence of court-martial or disciplinary courts.
3. Personnel who resigned to avoid court-martial.
4. Personnel discharged because their services were no longer required.

Subject To Recall

Those definitely subject to recall:

1. Men not covered in the foregoing categories.
2. Navy probationary officers who either resigned or failed to qualify.
3. Men discharged as unlikely to become efficient or unsuitable.

Mr. Mitchell added: "In connection with personnel liable or subject to recall and personnel definitely subject to recall, the R.C.A.F. and R.C.N. will supply full explanation regarding disciplinary charges, including the Pulhems charge, or the medical category. These cases will be considered individually and decision will be based on the particular circumstances."

"The names of men not subject or liable to recall are reported to the Army authorities who review each case and determine if it is considered advisable to have the man recalled."

In 86 plants in the Chicago region where wage incentive plans were put into effect, productivity increased 45 per cent within 90 days after the plans were installed, workers' earnings increased by 10 per cent, and labor costs decreased by an average of 14 per cent, the Production Board's Management Division stated.

POLICE DETAIN SIX FOLLOWING PARADE

Anti-Draft Demonstrators
Smash Windows, March
Through Downtown Streets

MEETING IS HELD

Bloc Populaire's Quebec
Leader Protests Against
Conscription Before 2,000
Youths

More than half a dozen young men were under arrest last night following a parade and demonstrations in the financial district of the city after an anti-conscription meeting at the St. James market place on Ontario street east by the Montreal section of the Bloc Populaire, and addressed by its provincial leader, Andre Laurendeau.

City police were unable to furnish the exact number of persons arrested or names at an early hour this morning, as the persons were still being listed at headquarters following the breaking of plate glass windows at the newspaper Le Canada and at the Insurance Exchange building containing offices of the National Selective Service. Windows were also broken in the Dominion Messenger Service office at Little St. Antoine and Craig streets, and in several of the premises on St. Peter street between St. James and Craig streets.

In the majority of cases the windows were broken by youngsters, out for a lark, who joined the parade as it left the St. James Market place. The group were foiled in an attempt to reach the head office of the Montreal Star Publishing Company on St. James street when their way was blocked by city police reserves, who had been rushed to the scene from No. 14 police station.

The riotous youths also tried to reach the office of The Gazette on St. Antoine street but police reserves were there also to maintain law and order, and the youths changed their minds.

At least one youngster was injured during the demonstrations. Bernard Cherrier, 16-year-old messenger boy in the employ of Le Canada, was pushed around and knocked to the ground as he tried to leave the building to complete a message while the group of demonstrators was in front. He managed to escape without serious injury, however.

The men arrested were taken into custody by the police reserves in the vicinity of St. James Market, on St. James, St. Peter and Craig streets when they refused to obey police orders.

The group in the parade started to assemble outside the St. James Market, and was supplemented by others at Lafontaine Park as the youths marched down the street singing: "Down with conscription."

After visiting Le Canada where they broke the plate glass windows with rocks they veered over onto Notre Dame Street and attacked the premises of National Selective Service after being foiled in their attempt to reach the office of the Montreal Star.

The windows in premises on St. Peter street and along St. Antoine street were smashed by several of the young hoodlums who joined the parade while it was en route.

PROTEST VOICED

The mass meeting of the Bloc Populaire since the Quebec election registered its protest against conscription in bitter accusations directed against the King Government and the "Judases" of the Province of Quebec who, according to Mr. Laurendeau, "have betrayed the province" and joined a "clique" which governs the majority by means of a dictatorship.

Mr. Laurendeau, speaking before a crowd numbering more than 2,000 young French Canadians mostly students of various local schools, cited the developments which led to the present government crisis. He recalled the words of former French Canadian nationalists, especially of Henri Bourassa, in regard to the attitude of French Canadians towards conscription and denounced the Hon. Louis St. Laurent, Minister of Justice and Hon. L. R. LaFleche, Minister of National Time Services, while at the same time praising to "the Irish element" in the federal parliament, former Air Minister C. G. Power, who had the courage to resign and thus register his protest against the hypocrisy of the Liberal Government.

Hanson Makes Clear About Draftee Grant

Ottawa, November 29.—Hon. R. B. Hanson (P.C., York-Sunbury) said today in the Commons that he had used the wrong terminology last Thursday when he asked if army officers had been asked to approach Home Defence troops and tell them they would get no rehabilitation grants if they did not volunteer for overseas service.

Mr. Hanson said he had meant to ask if the officers were ordered to tell Home Defence troops they would get no war service gratuity if they did not go active.

(Under existing legislation Home Defence troops are not entitled to gratuities. Special provisions were made to give gratuities to draftees who went to Kiska for a six-month period. Government officials have said that provision will be made to provide gratuities to draftees who go overseas under the government's recent order-in-council. All troops are entitled to rehabilitation grants.)

Mr. Hanson said he made his statement not only to put the position right but "to clarify and to make right the position of a very gallant officer (Brig. A. I. Anglin) who is the district officer commanding in Military District No. 7 who feels that my remarks have misinterpreted his position."

Repeatedly referring to the hypocritical stand of the Liberal Government in the past, and especially during the last war and the present, Mr. Laurendeau said "we denounce this dictatorship of the majority over the minority as being as tyrannical as any fascism." He declared that Prime Minister Mackenzie King had been the instrument of a group of 200 imperialists whom he identified as the "clique."

He also said "unfortunately part of our French Canadian press has also helped that group."

In conclusion, Mr. Laurendeau stated "I am a man who is not ready to appease the hand which strikes." He then explained that the government used first the slogan of "participation, then plebiscite and finally conscription" to get Canada into the state in which she is now. Prior to his final appeal for unity and for Canada's independence, the Bloc leader said "we must give a vote of non confidence to Ottawa's politics. We detest imperialism. We want union in Canada in order to achieve our independence."

He also announced that he had asked Premier Duplessis to assemble all leaders of the province in order to express a united feeling of the province on the question of conscription to the King Government.

Paul Masse, local lawyer, who like Mr. Laurendeau appealed for an orderly demonstration of the will of French Canadians, said "while we have every right to protest in the name of the Province of Quebec, we are at the same time expressing the feelings of 3,225 zombies from Toronto and of two-thirds of all zombies in Canada, who are not of French Canadian origin. He too denounced the "clique's rule" over the majority of Canadians, including 33 per cent Canadians, 21 per cent of European origin and 15 per cent of Irish extraction who wish Canada's independence. He paid tribute to De Valera, prime minister of Ireland, and demanded "Canadian unity among all those who hate hypocrisy."

The Bloc Populaire leader for Quebec read a telegram sent by Rene Chalouit, Nationalist member of the legislative assembly for Quebec (county). Dr. Philippe Hamel and J. E. Gregoire, a former mayor of Quebec City, all former Bloc Populaire members, who pledged support to Mr. Laurendeau in his battle against conscription.

Mr. Laurendeau announced he would address a public rally at Quebec along with Dr. Hamel and Mr. Chalouit tonight.

J. B. Prince, who was recently active in the anti-conscription movement of the last war was chairman of the meeting. Jean Drapeau and Marcel Poulin were among the speakers.

Canada Held Up As Three Nations

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—(C. P.)—The Washington Post, discussing the Canadian conscription crisis, said editorially today:

"From present indications it would appear that Prime Minister King will muster enough support in Parliament to carry him through the crisis precipitated by his proposal to send some 16,000 conscript soldiers overseas as replacements for the Canadian armies now fighting on the Western Front and in Italy."

"The Prime Minister has been able until now to avoid the necessity of bringing the conscription issue to a head for the reason that for the greater part of the war Canadian volunteers of the army remained inactive in England. . . Mr. King, of course, has been well aware that any attempt to introduce a policy of conscription for overseas duty would produce a storm of opposition in the province of Quebec. The sentiment there was tested some time ago by the referendum whereby the Prime Minister sought to be released from his pledge that the men drafted under the conscription law would not be forced to serve outside the Dominion. In most provinces the referendum received an enormous majority of affirmative votes. . ."

"However, the very fact that the great majority of the French-speaking population of Canada remains, in this fifth year of war, wholly unreconciled to the idea of sending young men abroad to fight is an indication that the curious cultural dichotomy in Canada is being emphasized rather than diminished with time. . . Perhaps it is lashed with much to say that in not too much, except the purely political sense, Canada is not one nation, but two, or perhaps, considering also the evidences of particularism in the northwest-ern provinces, three nations."

THE GUM THAT MAKES GRAMMY FAMOUS

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1944

A NATION'S HEALTH IS A NATION'S WEALTH

COLONEL RALSTON REMAINS CONSISTENT

COLONEL RALSTON could not consistently have taken any other course than the one he adopted last night in the House of Commons. Any other decision than one supporting the Government would have been inconsistent with his declared position, for he stated quite clearly in the House earlier in the week that there was nothing between him and General McNaughton—the General's statement of his position was what Colonel Ralston had advocated. "There is really nothing between us," said Colonel Ralston. "What he now recommends is what I advocated."

His principal reason for supporting the Government is stated clearly and unequivocally. He said:

"The amendment is in fact a motion of want of confidence because if it were carried the Government's motion would be lost and the Government, instead of driving ahead, as it must do, to dispatch 16,000 reinforcements from the N.R.M.A. and the further reinforcements required from time to time, would cease to function, and the whole matter of dispatching these men, which I have so earnestly advocated, would be thrown into the realm of uncertainty and suspense. . . I have come to the conclusion that I will not by my vote permit that to happen."

In another place, Colonel Ralston added: "When I resigned, I didn't want a change of Government; I wanted reinforcements. That's what I want today."

This decision of Colonel Ralston's having been made, little remains for the House to debate. It is certain now that the Government will be sustained by a vote of confidence, and although it does not come through the crisis unscathed, it is enabled to carry on the rest of the war with a mandate for its most vigorous prosecution.

Colonel Ralston's explanations to the House clarify the whole situation. On his own admission, his advice to send reinforcements overseas from among the draftees was somewhat belatedly given. If, as he declares, the infantry reinforcement pools have been almost depleted to the point of exhaustion, then a decision to send draftees overseas three weeks ago would not have met the immediate emergency. It would have served to get reinforcements over a few weeks earlier had shipping been available, but it would not have filled the reinforcement pools until mid-January. At that time, or a little later, as the Prime Minister, General Mc-

This Rioting Must Stop

An Editorial

THE GANG of hoodlums who marched on downtown newspaper offices last night and smashed plate glass windows in the Selective Service Office and in St. Peter street shops were guilty of the first overt act against the Government policy of sending draftees overseas as reinforcements. Other demonstrations will doubtless follow, for it is clear from last night's happenings that this demonstration was not the sporadic outburst of a few disgruntled men, but was organized. Under whose leadership it was organized the public will not be long in guessing, for the leaders of responsible elements in the community have already counselled order and obedience to the law.

Last night the Montreal police did an excellent job. Damage was kept to a minimum and the crazed youths were kept away from their principal objectives. But there are not enough police in the city to control a situation of this kind if the organization plans to extend its activities, and the competent authorities must be prepared to act in support of the police.

* * *

ONE THING the public will demand, and that is that outbreaks of this kind be put down with the firmest possible hand.

These young men—even their older and, presumably, more intelligent, leaders—have an undoubted right to object to conscription. No one denies them that right. What they must do, however, is to exercise it constitutionally. Inside St. James Market Hall no one interfered with the free expression of opinion which is every Canadian's right. But the moment these young men stepped outside, the moment they demonstrated in the streets and caused disorder by smashing windows, at that moment they became guilty of an offence, not alone against common decency, but against the elementary principles upon which the right of citizenship is based. They are responsible to the law and the law should be applied to their conduct with the utmost rigour.

* * *

THIS COUNTRY wants no repetition of 1917. The best elements of Quebec itself do not want any such repetition. Repeatedly, during the past few days, provincial leaders, from the Cardinal down, have urged restraint on the people of this province. They have asked that the law be obeyed, that Quebec, in the words of the Premier, demonstrate again that it is "the bastion of law and order" in this country.

What leadership, then, are these young hoodlums following? They must know that the law of this country will be enforced without fear or discrimination. They would be well advised to heed the counsel of the saner elements who know that Quebec's relationship with the rest of Canada may depend for years to come upon its attitude toward the decisions taken by the people's Government and Parliament.

Naughton and Colonel Ralston agree, a further emergency will arise. If the movement of reinforcements already initiated is delayed, as Colonel Ralston fears, by prolonged debate or the defeat of the Government and the turmoil of an election, the Members will have to answer to the country for having caused the delay.

How much finer would their attitude not have been had the Government's critics been able to say as Colonel Ralston did in what must have been a moving moment in his speech: "I have not any ambition but to be a good Canadian, and I know that my place is not on the towering heights of leadership but in the humble valleys working with my fellow men."

Whether or not this debate ends this week, for the Canadian people the issues are now settled. The Government will remain in office to carry out the mandate entrusted to it. The hundreds of thousands of young Canadians overseas will go into battle with the comforting assurance that whatever may be their needs, Canada is behind them with all her strength. Reinforcements are given the right of way and an election quite properly side-tracked.

Recruiting Up

OTTAWA, Nov. 30—(C.P.)—Defence Minister McNaughton announced yesterday that last week 1,860 men enlisted for active service, the biggest week on record. The previous high weekly figure was 1,325 which followed D-day, June 6.

A breakdown of last week's enlistment was: From Home Defence forces 866; from reserve 113; from the public 881.

Gen. McNaughton added that a satisfactory proportion of the enlistments was French-Canadian.

Re-Organize Division

VANCOUVER, Nov. 30—(C.P.)—The Vancouver Province in a newspaper story yesterday said that the Canadian Army's 6th Division will be re-organized immediately, brigade camps at six British Columbia centres will be closed and Pacific Command will revert to the status of a military district.

Confirmation of this report could not be obtained from Pacific command headquarters.

Reorganization of the 6th Division, comprised almost entirely of home defence units, would be the second step in connection with three infantry divisions organized for the defence of Canada. The 7th and 8th Divisions were disbanded in September, 1943.

The 6th Division has been stationed in British Columbia and brigade camps were set up at Prince Rupert, Terrace, Prince George, Vernon, Nanaimo and Port Alberni.

Ralston Ends Crisis

Sending of Troops His Objective

A partial text of Col. Ralston's speech will be found on pages four and five.

OTTAWA, Nov. 30—(Star Special by Staff Correspondent)—In the light of the speech last night by former Defence Minister Ralston the Parliamentary political situation seemed much more stabilized today.

There now appears to be no doubt that the Government will weather the storm with a "comfortable" majority, perhaps in the neighborhood of 40. Probably there will be no defection now of English speaking Liberals from outside of Quebec. There still will be defections of Liberal supporters from Quebec.

Had Col. Ralston come out in opposition to the Government it is improbable that many English speaking Liberals would have followed his lead. But a few had been talking that way. One of them repeatedly pounded his desk in approval of the ex-Minister, conveying definitely the "where thou goest I go" frame of mind. When, however, Col. Ralston declared for the Government for the reasons he gave, he appeared to give the lead to any reportedly wavering in their support.

Not Playing Politics

If the ex-Minister stands by the Administration, however, it is because he is determined "not to lose sight of the ball"—the urgent need of reinforcements. He intends to hold the Government to a "strict accounting." In that respect meanwhile he won't "play politics" or help bring about defeat of the Ministry, or help precipitate the upheaval of a general election. Reinforcements in quick order is his whole purpose, from which politics or resentment or anything else will not be allowed to deflect.

Nevertheless, what he has had to say to the Government has not been said exactly with flowers. There is nothing very complimentary in referring to the policy as "half-hearted—piecemeal."

Mr. Ralston's speech was appraised as both a triumph and a disappointment. A triumph in his personal vindication and in the high ground which he takes and a disappointment to those who thought he might cast off from the Government, rip into them and do a complete job, and then consent to lead a union movement. He is not doing any of these things. The "only issue," as he describes it, is to get men overseas, and he is not going to support any course calculated to delay, much less to frustrate that purpose.

So far as the English speaking members outside of Quebec are concerned, the Ralston support of the Government composes their difficulty. It is far from that among the Quebec following. Four have crossed the floor, although each of them has repeatedly voted against the Government. Six regulars have issued a pronouncement against conscription.

Quebec Amendment Possible

The Quebec Liberal caucus is casting about for an amendment to be moved, when it can be moved, setting forth their support to the entire war effort minus just one thing—conscription. Their plaint is that it is a shame at this stage of a great war effort to introduce such a disruptive note over "sixteen thousand men" for overseas.

What weighs with most of them is the question that, if Mr. King goes, what do they get in his place? That question also goes to the Quebec followers.

As things now stand, the Government may be abbreviated, but it is unlikely to run well. Perhaps take a look at the Quebec situation.

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It is just here that the reasoning of the document will not bear close examination, for the whole of Canada released the Government from the moral obligation assumed earlier not to introduce compulsion for overseas service. Let us say at once that the Quebec Government is pursuing a proper course in memorializing Ottawa on this subject. It has a view to express and expresses it with dignity and restraint. That is the level upon which this controversy should be kept, and it is to be hoped that the people of the province will follow the example now given them.

This being said, the merits of the Order-in-Council may be examined critically. The Premier's telegram to the Prime Minister concludes with the words: "The Government and the people of the Province of Quebec demand that your Government respect and fulfil your solemn engagements and sacred pledges against conscription for overseas service." That is also the substance of the Order-in-Council.

Now the obligation not to introduce compulsion did exist until April, 1942. Mr. King admitted that obligation in his speech to the House the other day. He said: "There has never been a moment at which the Government has not had the legal power (to introduce compulsion), but there was, up to that moment (of the plebiscite) a very strong moral obligation. Now may I say that, as between legal obligation and moral obligation, if I find the two in conflict I shall, with God's help, maintain the moral obligation." And it was because this was so that "I had my colleagues join me in proposing a plebiscite which would free us from any moral obligation that had existed up to that time."

Overwhelmingly, the country gave the Government the release it sought. On April 27, 1942, the plebiscite vote was taken and 2,926,856 Canadians voted "Yes," while 1,618,730 voted "No." Nothing could have been more conclusive. The democratic process for determining the will of the people had resulted in a resounding statement of that will. By large majority, Canada relieved the Government of its moral obligation and left it free to meet the exigencies of war.

It should be remembered that the Government's original commitment was not made to Quebec, not even especially to Quebec; it was made to the whole of Canada. The fact, therefore, that the majority in Quebec voted "No" in the plebiscite does not place this province in a privileged position where national duties are concerned. Its responsibilities in national affairs are those of all other provinces; they are responsibilities shared in common.

The Order-in-Council does not, of course, claim special privilege for this province but does contain the underlying assumption that Quebec has been unfairly dealt with.

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"The only solution seems to me this: Have an appeal to the people, have it right away, either in the form of a referendum or an election. Let the people decide, and if they decide in favour of conscription . . . whatever influence I may have will be employed in pleading to the Quebec people that the question is settled by the verdict of the majority, and that all must loyally accept the issue and submit to the law."

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Police Say Dearth of Men Aided Escape of Rioters

Anti-Conscription Demonstrators Cause Widespread Damage Downtown

NO PROTECTION can be guaranteed the public for the duration of the war because of the manpower shortage in the Montreal Police Department.

This was the answer a high police official gave today in reply to questions as to why there was not more than one arrest in mass anti-conscription riots staged in the city last night following a meeting called by the Bloc Populaire Canadien in St. James Market Hall.

Two thousand youths took part in a parade following the meeting and smashed windows on the premises of some 25 business establishments in the financial district. The disturbances also resulted in injuries to two people.

An official statement from the department on the mass disturbances here last night was lacking, but this high official said the department was in a position where it was "almost impossible to cope with such groups."

Boy, 15, Arrested

Meanwhile, a 15-year-old boy was scheduled to appear in Juvenile Court today to answer charges of damaging property during the rioting.

The official said the local police force was "outnumbered 12 to one" when the anti-conscription rioters staged their destructive march through the downtown section of the city. "Never in the history of the department has the manpower shortage menaced the enforcement of law to such an extent," he said.

Aware that trouble might result from last night's demonstration, the department drew 125 police constables from various stations in the city and put them on special duties, the official said. All leaves were cancelled to constables for the night. Police, he said, had been watching for conscription trouble since the Ottawa Order-in-Council, making 16,000 draftees available for overseas services, was announced last week.

R.C.M.P. Silent

Royal Canadian Mounted Police officials had nothing to say about the situation, although it was understood that they also were keeping an eye on the events.

The 15-year-old boy who was scheduled to appear in Juvenile Court today was the only person arrested during last night's demonstration. Police said he was arrested in front of 700 St. Peter street at the height of the disturbances. The official charge against him in court is that of property damage.

A police constable received a broken arm while on duty in the downtown section last night, but there were no other details available. A woman was hurt slightly in an encounter with the paraders on St. Peter street.

Windows of 25 Firms Smashed

The windows of about 25 downtown firms were smashed by the paraders. The heaviest damage was caused to National Selective Service offices in the Insurance Exchange Building, where 14 windows in all were shattered.

The main damage centred in the business and financial district, with firms located on Notre Dame, St. James, St. Peter and Craig streets reporting heaviest losses.

The rioters smashed windows in the St. Peter and St. James street branch of the Bank of Montreal, the Montreal Trust Company and several other establishments after they had shattered the 10 bi-plate glass windows in the building which houses Le Canada, French language morning newspaper. About 200 of the rioters demonstrated before Le Canada's offices.

A march on those of The Star and later on those of The Gazette failed, as police reinforcements prevented the crowd from reaching either building.

Laurendeau Speaks at Rally

Shouting above the noise of the several thousand persons who jammed St. James Market hall during the evening, Andre Laurendeau, young Quebec leader of the Bloc Populaire Canadien, declared that a majority had "no moral right" to "blind French-Canadians to a conscription measure."

There were loud cheers from the big audience inside the hall and from the large crowds who listened to Laurendeau's speech outside as the Bloc leader called for a political truce in Quebec to present a united front against conscription.

pole and ripping the door of his car, a large grey sedan. The motorist did not stop, but continued on with the door hanging loosely from its hinges.

Ugliness Breaks Out

It was at the top of Place d'Armes Hill that the first sign of lawlessness broke out. The paraders attempted to turn west into St. James street, but the leader, who by this time had been abandoned by the uniformed soldiers, shouted "Le Canada!" "Le Canada!" and the mob raced up the hill turning west. Within a few seconds rousing could be heard on the plate glass windows followed by the crashing of glass, as the three large plate glass windows of the building crashed to the ground.

The mob broke at the sound, turned and ran, and in the general melee, many were knocked to the ground. One of the crowd was pushed into the plate glass window of the Montreal Trust Company on the northeast corner of the square, releasing the burglar alarm and turning on the lights.

Police Appear

The police appeared with reinforcements, and the square became bedlam as the crowd raced across past the statue of Maisonneuve, founder of Montreal. They headed directly for the National Selective Service offices located in the Insurance Exchange Building and within seconds, every large plate glass window there was shattered. Some of the crowd tried to go up St. John street, but were headed off by a squad of police which had arrived at The Star building on St. James street. Blocked here, the crowd by this time was showing an ugly disposition. The street level window of Marler & Co., stockbrokers, 501 St. Peter street, was kicked in, and the mob pressed on westward.

At the C.N.R. overpass on St. Antoine street, the crowd was blocked by a squad of police reinforcements. They turned on their tracks and marched back via Craig, kicking over mail and refuse boxes. Bottles were being thrown, and sticks, bricks and other missiles sailed through the air.

St. Peter St. Damage Begins

A few police officers tried to break up the mob, and they turned northward into St. Peter street, evidently in an effort to again reach The Star building. It was here the greatest damage was done.

With the shattering of the window of the Bond Tailors at Craig and St. Peter streets, the crowd broke into a run up the hill to St. James street. Practically all the plate glass windows of stores on both sides of St. Peter street were broken, and pedestrians were bowled over in the rush.

Two women, apparently returning from work were knocked down, and one was struck in the face by one of the rioters. Another squad of police met the mob at the top of the hill, while four patrol loads of reinforcements walked up the hill from Craig street.

Caught between the two converging lines of police the gang dispersed into Fortification lane. Police then cleared the streets and kept loiterers on the move,

while other officers were placed on guard at damaged premises.

By midnight the tempest had died down and the main gang had disappeared up St. Lawrence Blvd.

French-Canadians

Ex-Minister Challenges Draft—Other Members Heard in Debate

By James Oastler
Star Staff Correspondent

OTTAWA, Dec. 1.—An impassioned plea to the people of the Province of Quebec to be calm and wait in patience was delivered in the House of Commons last night by the Hon. P. J. A. Cardin, former Minister of Public Works and Liberal member for Richelieu-Verchères. "Let us wait in calm and patience the hour when we shall be in a position to express as Canadians and as electors our opinion of what has been done today and may be done tomorrow," he said during his address aimed at his French Canadian compatriots.

During the debate on the vote of confidence motion, two amendments were ruled out of order. One was introduced by the Social Credit group and the other by two Liberal members. Further attempts to introduce sub-amendments to the Government motion were looked for.

One of the highlights of yesterday's session was an address by Hon. R. B. Hanson, acting Opposition leader, in the absence of Gordon Graydon, who is ill.

Adverse Vote

After Mr. Cardin finished his four long address he told the Star that it was his intention to vote against the Government motion.

Mr. Cardin at the outset of his remarks thanked W. A. Tucker (Lib) Rosthern for the remarks he made about French Canadians. "It is not very often that we French Canadians hear in this House of Commons an English speaking voice defending and expressing the views which are similar to the views that we entertain and use the same arguments that we ourselves are using in defence of our own ideas."

The former Minister deplored the number of amendments which had been submitted. The object of them was purely and simply to beloud the issue and prevent the common people from understanding what was really at stake before Parliament.

The Government had come before the House asking for a vote of confidence. "We should vote on it and vote on it in the way it has been drafted, and not be afraid to say 'yes' or 'no'."

Mr. Cardin asked: "What is the policy of the Government? A policy of conscription for service overseas. That is the policy of the Government; and an hon. member standing in this House and voting for the motion made by the Prime Minister would vote for the policy of conscription because the policy of the Government is a policy of conscription as it has been stated by the Prime Minister himself and as it is stated by the Order-in-Council which is before the House at the present time." There was no escape from that position.

Solo Issue

There should be a frank facing of the issue. "It is sufficiently important to reserve full consideration and a frank vote on the part of members representing the electors of Canada," Mr. Cardin declared.

People had said Quebec had not been properly led, that the province was in such a state of mind because of the attitude of her leaders. For a certain time he had been one of the leaders. "I have nothing to retract—no excuses to offer."

Wounded Soldier M.P. Backs King to Limit

Ottawa, November 30.—(Maj. W. E. Harris, 40 (L-Grey Bruce), wounded in the fierce fighting near Caen last July, said in the Commons tonight that it was "definitely not true that the Government has not provided trained reinforcements."

Recovering from a foot wound, Maj. Harris spoke from his experience overseas, and said he knew that at times reinforcement pools were depleted and soldiers called for conscription. Always, however, a shipment came along from Canada and the pools were filled up.

He proposed to vote against all amendments, and for the Government motion of confidence.

Maj. Harris said he would vote against the Opposition amendment which declared the Government had not provided adequate reinforcements because it did not state the truth. When two great soldiers—Defence Minister McNughton and Col. J. L. Ralston, former Defence Minister—were agreed on what was being done he was satisfied.

In the Armored Corps, in which he served, there was never any shortage of reinforcements. It had been said after one good battle the Canadian Army would have no reinforcements.

"Well," he added, "we fought a good many battles and we beat the Germans, and we are still fighting."

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Hanson Asks if 'Tired Old Men' Of Cabinet All Brains in Canada

Ottawa, November 30. — (C) — A group of cabinet ministers came in for personal attention from Hon. R. B. Hanson (P.C., York-Sunbury) in the course of a speech in the Commons today.

"I wonder if the Prime Minister thinks that this group of old tired men he has around him represent all the brains in this country," he said. "With the possible exception of one or two, who I think are very able men — two of the best men have gone (Defence Minister Ralston and Minister Power) — I wonder if he thinks that any one of his colleagues could not be dispensed with overnight without a ripple in the national life of the country."

Then Mr. Hanson turned to some of the ministers individually with these comments:

Postmaster General Mulock — "I wonder what would happen if he were to resign his seat tomorrow. Do you think the clocks would stop or the mails cease to go."

State Secretary McLarty — "Do you think there would be any national calamity if the Secretary of State were to go back to Windsor and resume his law practice? I do not think anything would happen. He would probably be happier."

Revenue Minister Gibson — "The member for Hamilton West holds, I believe, rather strong views on this question of reinforcements. I wonder if any national catastrophe would take place if he were to disappear from our midst. I do not think it would be much of a loss, and I do not say that with any disrespect."

Resources Minister Crerar — "He has pretty nearly run his course in the political sphere anyway, and I think he would welcome retirement from the Prime Minister's Cabinet, provided of course he was adequately looked after."

Transport Minister Michaud — "The Cabinet minister from New Brunswick has elected to stay with the Government. I wonder if he has heard from the people back home."

TERRACE DRAFTEES SAID GOING ACTIVE

Soldier Says Many Former Demonstrators Joining Up; 200 Still on 'Strike'

Terrace, B.C., November 30. — (C) — Substantial numbers of Home Defence troops at Terrace are volunteering for active service, a soldier said in an interview here today.

"The boys are beginning to realize just what they have been doing in the last few days and it's worrying them," he said. "In my outfit alone, I guess close to 100 men have 'gone active' since Monday."

It is believed here that reading of army regulations concerning mutiny has been responsible for easing of the once-grave anti-conscription situation among Home Defence troops at this Northern British Columbia village.

Brig. A. R. Roy, commanding officer of a brigade stationed here, brought the regulations to the attention of the men Wednesday pointing out a life imprisonment sentence could be given.

The situation has improved vastly but has not yet fully cleared. A comparatively small number of troops, about 200 in all, still refuse to work.

Pearkes Back in Vancouver

Vancouver, November 30. — (C) — Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, general officer commanding, Pacific Command, returned here today after visits to Home Defence army camps at Prince George, B.C., and Terrace, B.C., the Command announced tonight.

Gen. Pearkes was in Terrace yesterday when a troop train carrying an English-speaking Saskatchewan regiment left the northern British Columbia village for another camp in the province after a 24-hour delay caused when other Home Defence troops picketed their station.

"There was no interference with the movement of the troops by any other units stationed in that camp," an army spokesman said in a statement. "The camp was quiet, normal. The camp was being administered and parades were carried out during the afternoon."

"While the situation in Terrace has been serious during the last few days, it would now seem that discipline has been restored. At Prince George normal routine and training was being carried out without incident."

EFFORT HINTED TO CORNER KING

Senate Leader Says Draftees Induced Not to Volunteer

Ottawa, November 30. — (C) — Dr. J. H. King, government Senate leader, said in the Upper Chamber today there had been an organized attempt to have men called up for home defence refrain from volunteering for general service.

The scheme was planned, he said, to force Prime Minister Mackenzie King to take action introducing compulsory overseas service.

Dr. King said some of those called up for service had been "schooled to resist voluntary enlistment in order to force the Prime Minister to bring down an order-in-council."

Senator J. A. McDonald (L., Nova Scotia) asked what advice there was such an occurrence.

"It is well known," Dr. King replied.

"Only in the minds of Liberal politicians," interjected Senator R. B. Horner (P.C., Saskatchewan).

Dr. King said he was not suggesting the Progressive Conservative or any other political party was responsible for such a campaign.

Senator John T. Haig (L., Manitoba) said Dr. King as a minister of the Crown should launch action under the Defence of Canada Regulations if he knew of such a campaign.

Dr. King was the first of four speakers who took part in the Senate discussion on reinforcements and conscription. The debate will be continued tomorrow.

Senator C. C. Ballantyne, Progressive Conservative Senate leader, took the position that the government's action in making 16,000 men available for compulsory overseas service did not go far enough.

Senator J. W. DeB. Farris (L., British Columbia) supported the government's action and called for a restoration of public confidence in the government.

The only speaker to oppose the principle of conscription was Sir Thomas Chapais (P.C., Quebec). He said Canada's war effort had reached a peak and could not be expanded indefinitely.

Dr. King expressed criticism of "a group of people" who had made unwarranted attacks on Prime Minister Mackenzie King.

At the time the National Resources Mobilization Act had been passed in 1940 there had been no demand from any major party for all-out conscription. Some of those

for military service under the act had been "schooled to resist voluntary enlistment in order to force the Prime Minister to bring down an order-in-council."

There were demands from the opposition side of the chamber that Dr. King name those who had taken such actions. The government Senate leader said he was not suggesting it was any political party but the group was well known.

Senator Ballantyne objected to restricting the theatres in which N.R.M.A. could be required to serve in Europe while general service men were available for the Pacific or any other part of the world. The order should also apply to all N.R.M.A. personnel.

"Parliament will not be satisfied with this limited conscription," he said. "It is quite possible the Prime Minister and the government will get a majority but even if they do the great parliament of Canada is the men and women of the country and I don't think they will be satisfied."

Sir Thomas Chapais said sinister clouds had appeared on the horizon in 1940 when the Mobilization Act was passed. These clouds continued to spread and as they spread Canada's war effort which was to have been moderate grew out of proportion to the Dominion's responsibility.

The sinister clouds now were disappearing and the government was imposing conscription. He admired the words of Hon. C. G. Power, former Air Minister who resigned over the conscription issue.

Maj. Power had said that conscription might be necessary at some periods of a country's history. It might have been justified if D-Day—June 6—had been a catastrophe rather than a smashing success.

Maj. Power had said the government had no right to tear the country asunder by imposing conscription at this time.

The reason being given for the imposition of conscription was the need for reinforcements. This was the same reason Sir Robert Borden had given in imposing conscription in 1917.

Canada had mobilized close to 1,000,000 men and still there were cries for total war. Similar cries continued to be heard even after the country's industry had turned to making munitions of war, after Canada had bled herself white to help the oppressed, after the budget was leaped from \$600,000,000 to \$5,000,000,000 annually, after taxes had been raised to the limit and after the debt had been increased to \$15,000,000,000.

Conscription had caused division in the country before and would cause even greater division now.

B.C. Draftee Situation Now Normal

Home Defence Troops End Demonstrations

By Canadian Press

Tension in British Columbia army camps at which Home Defence troops have demonstrated against the Government's overseas conscription policy appeared eased today with the report from Pacific Command officials that the men were carrying out their regular duties and training at Vernon, Prince George, Chilliwack, Nanaimo and Courtenay.

The Pacific Command reported last night that a troop train carrying an English-speaking Home Defence regiment from Saskatchewan on a routine move to another station in British Columbia had left the village of Terrace, 500 miles north of Vancouver, without incident. The Saskatchewan regiment earlier had been prevented from leaving Terrace by pickets of other units there.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King told the House of Commons yesterday that the situation in British Columbia camps was being "carefully watched and completely controlled."

Investigations Continue

Meantime military investigators were continuing at point where Home Defence troops held anti-conscription demonstrations.

In an interview at Ottawa Defence Minister McNaughton said the disturbances were due to a comparatively small minority who were stirring up other members of the Home Defence units. At Quebec, Brig. Edmond Blais, officer commanding Military District No. 5, announced that all Home Defence troops from his district would shortly be returned there for training under their own officers.

Transfer Made

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Protesting against the Federal Government's authorization of the sending overseas of up to 16,000 Home Defence troops, soldiers at Terrace started demonstrating Saturday with a sit-down strike in camp and continued throughout the week-end, climaxing their protest with picket lines formed to prevent the posting of their fellow soldiers.

Meanwhile, the Pacific Command here still did not confirm a Vancouver Province report that Maj.-Gen. G. R. Pearkes, V.C., General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, was on his way to the northern town to assume personal command in the emergency.

Quebec Unit Takes Part

Members of a Quebec and a Maritime regiment recruited from all parts of Canada took part in the demonstrations to prevent the departure of a Saskatchewan regiment for its new station.

After the pickets had disbanded, members of the Saskatchewan regiment left the camp in small groups and walked to the train in an orderly fashion. Wives of a few of the men were at the station to see them off.

Other Home Defence men at the station, including the former pickets, remained at camp while the train was loading.

Grievances of the Home Defence troops at Terrace were listed and sent to Canadian Army headquarters at Ottawa and it was believed no further action would be taken by the men until replies were received.

French-Canadians at the camp had announced they would continue their strike, doing only essential chores, until they received a reply from the Government to their demand that they be returned to their Quebec homes.

Sporadic parades through the town had been reported for several days, but all was quiet in the little northern community last night and nothing untoward was reported from other camp centres in British Columbia which had been the scene of minor anti-conscription demonstrations.

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